



Summer

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 55, No. 11

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

August 2015

“Are we there yet?”



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

“Are we there yet?” this phrase has been heard many times from the back of the family station wagon, on vacations, visiting relatives, trips to stores and travel anywhere. We heard it from our kids, grandkids, we even said this phrase ourselves, from the rear seat somewhere across this nation, I bet it was heard on the Mayflower on its voyage to America. We have heard this in our journey down our Grange pathway through the degrees. So I ask you to think “Are you there yet?” in your Grange journey.

When we come into the Grange we are welcome as family and new laborers in our order. Have you stepped up to the challenge or have you become one of those who pay their dues and never go to a Grange meeting. If you are out of state I can excuse the meetings but do you keep in touch with your fellow Grangers or just the Secretaries for dues? If

you read this paper and not pay for the subscription, did you thank your Community Grange for paying for the subscription? Dues today cover just the National and State Grange dues, today \$26.50 covers those, and the Granger is \$2.50 for Granges that subscribe for 100% of their members. So are you there with your fellow Grangers?

Many of our Community Granges are being held together with fewer than 10 members working to keep the Grange going. We have worked and begged them to get new members. We know it is a hard task when our communities are so busy with other activities that today’s families are out of time for another meeting, organization or function. So I call upon you members on the sidelines come back and renew your Grange Pledge and get back into the game, we need you in the halls, not just the bank book.

I had a wet time at the New England Grange Sunday, at Rindge, NH. Thought I gave plenty of time but three downpours slowed me down. We made it before the collection, full house in the chapel and had a good seat next to the roaring fireplace. Awaiting my next challenge the New England Lecturers Conference in Maine.

Many deputy reports are still coming in and replies

will be out end of August and first of September. It great to read the many things that our Grangers are doing but its sad that our Grangers journeys have stopped at the first four degrees. Our Pomona Granges do not have full representation of all Community Granges in the area. Pomona Granges allow members to meet others and hear what your neighbors are doing and to get new ideas to bring back to your Grange. Pomona Granges are also the place for resolutions to go to get more support than just your Grange, and reading the first time at State Session. Pomona Grange also can help with resources to help with Degree Days. Three Pomonas had Degree Days this last year.

A letter went out to Secretaries for addresses of members. Please send them in to the Central Office, one to update our records and to send a updated list to the National Grange. If members do not wish to receive mail from the National Grange, they can go to the National Grange website and block their address.

As we finish up our summer travels we have always heard from the driver of the family station wagon “now if everyone is good we will stop for ice cream.” “HOORAY everyone wins!!” Happy Summer.

My favorite spot in CT

Marge Bernhardt,
State Lecturer

I hope summer is treating everyone well. And as you enjoy those lazy days summer has to offer, why not take time to think about some of the fantastic places in Connecticut that you can spend your time. Then, why not enter our Essay Contest. The title this year is “My Favorite Spot in Connecticut”. It should be 150 words or less. I can think of several spots to enjoy, learn and/or relax in our State. What is your favorite?

There is still to write a

letter to a solder. If you don’t have an address you can get them to me and I will see that they make their way to a soldier, sailor, marine or airmen fighting to keep our country free.

Many Granges report sending packages on a regular basis. This is not a requirement but makes a great community service project. If you do send a box, please be sure and send a letter in it. Remember you do not have to be a Lecturer to do these projects.

Lecturers – you should have received your packet with next years’ materials

by this time. If you haven’t, please let me know and I will track it down for you.

See you around the State.

Continued on page 3

A Grange family of Farmers in Canaan



The Freund Family on their farm in Canaan.

Editor’s Note: Amanda Freund and her family are members of Riverton Grange No. 169. This article is reprinted from “The Food Journal and Food, Nutrition & Science.”

Amanda Freund, 30, works with her father, uncle, mother, brother and sister on her family dairy farm. Freund’s farm is located in the northwest corner of Connecticut where her family owns and operates three separate farm businesses; Freund’s Farm Inc., Freund’s Farm Market & Bakery, LLC and CowPots, LLC. Freund’s family grows crops, forages and pasture on approximately 600 acres. Additionally, they have a Forest Stewardship Plan for 200 acres of forestland on their farm.

How did you get into farming?

I am a third generation farmer on our farm. As long ago as I can remember, I filled the buddy seat in our tractor while my dad mowed and chopped our hay and corn. I took on the responsibility of afternoon chores when I was 12 years old. In college, summers and breaks were spent on the farm working in our farm market. Since graduating from college in 2006, I have worked for a congresswoman, CT Farm Bureau, served two years in the Peace Corps, and most recently worked for UConn Extension. The beginning of this year I returned to my family’s farm full-time, recognizing the importance of the work to be done and the opportunities for me to make meaningful contributions to my family and community.

How have your farming practices changed over the last 10 years?

It was almost 10 years ago that we started traveling around the tri-state area with a value-added product that my family invented to help reduce the amount of manure on our farm and (hoping to) potentially generate an additional income source. It was 2006

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A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



2015 Session Schedule

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, CT

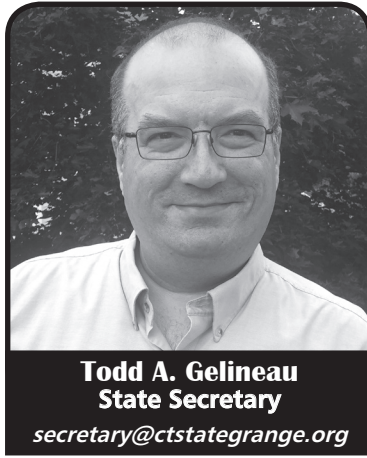
- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Sixth Degree
Introduction of National Representative
James Tetreault, Lecturer of the National Grange & Past Master of the New Hampshire State Grange
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates
Roll Call of Granges
Report of Credential Committee
Session Committee Announcements
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
- 8:00 P.M. Address of State President Noel T. Miller
Report of Overseer
Report of Lecturer
Reports of Secretary
Reports of Treasurer
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Directors
- 9:00 P.M. Closing
- 9:15 P.M. Committee Work Begins
- Friday, October 16, 2015**
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Session
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of two members of the Executive Committee
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee
Report of Agriculture Committee
Report of General Deputy
Reports of Pomona Deputies
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:00 A.M. Report of Connecticut Granger
Report of Camp Berger
- Ruel Miller, Camp Liaison
- Lyn Kimberly, Camp Director
Report of Connecticut State Grange Foundation
Business Session (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (*Nutmeg Ballroom*)
Hosts: T.B.D.
- Blessing by State Chaplain Charles Dimmick
- Family Activity Presentation & Awards
- Membership Awards
- Public Relations Awards
- Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representative
James Tetreault, Lecturer of the National Grange
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. **BREAK**
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New Grange Building Trustees
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 8:00 P.M. Sixth Degree Conferral, Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
(Open to Sixth Degree members, registration not required)
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree
Escorting of Honored Guests & Past Voting Delegates
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form
Rose Drill
- Recognition of Golden Sheaf Grangers
- Community Service
- Honor Grange Awards
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree
March to the Table - Officers and Court

Please Note: Candidates must be at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, by 7:30 P.M. Candidates must have the Fourth and Fifth Degree words and the Sixth Degree ticket stub to give to the Deputy at the door. Applications for the Sixth Degree will be on sale during the Session and at the door on Friday. Cost of application: \$10.00.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
Junior and Youth Tour
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
- 9:45 A.M. Business Session
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:00 A.M. Budget Approval
- 11:45 A.M. FFA Representative
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recognition Luncheon (*Restaurant*)
Hosts: T.B.D.
- Blessing by State Chaplain Charles Dimmick
- Junior Recognition
- Youth Recognition
- 2:00 P.M. Business Session
- 5:00 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (*Nutmeg Ballroom*)
Professional Agriculture Awards
Scholarships
2015 CT State Grange Granger of the Year
Lecturer's Program & Past Deputies Raffle

Join us for the 131st Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange. All Granges should be present for roll call on Thursday evening and we encourage ALL members to be present for all or part of the session.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

State Session is almost here! In this issue we have included as much information as we have at this moment. It's important to remind all Grange members that this is YOUR State Session. It's not just for the officers and delegates. Please look over the schedule printed in this issue and think about attending some or all of State Session. If you are planning on attending the business sessions there will be a registration fee required (as has been required in the past). A registration fee is not required for the Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening or the Sixth Degree on Friday evening.

SIXTH DEGREE

The annual conferral of the Sixth Degree will be held at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel beginning at 8:00 P.M. Anyone who would like to receive the Sixth Degree should be at the hotel by 7:30 P.M. Applications are \$10.00 and are available by contacting me at the Central Office or by purchasing them at the Hotel during the session.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

The good news is that the cost of the hotel rooms will remain the same at \$89 per night (plus tax). We ask that you make your reservations directly with the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel by calling 860-257-6000 as soon as possible. Please mention the Connecticut State Grange to receive our group rate.

REGISTRATIONS & MEALS

We are having some difficulty with the rising costs of meals. As a result, we have been working overtime with the hotel to work out menus and pricing that will give us exceptional meals at reasonable prices. There may be an increase for part of the registration and/or the banquet but we are trying to minimize that increase. We know many of our Granges

131st Annual Session around the corner!

and Grange members are on tight budgets and every penny counts!

The menu choices will be Grilled Salmon, Chateau Steak, Stuffed Chicken Breast or Grilled Polenta with Roasted Vegetables (gluten free/vegetarian option).

Once we have settled the pricing for meals, the registration materials will be made available online through our website, through email blasts, the annual Call to the Session mailed to all Granges by mid-August and in the September issue of the Granger. You can also call me at the office or email me (secretary@ctstategrange.org) for more information.

OTHER INFORMATION

Please be aware that mileage and per diem payments were eliminated by delegate vote at the last State Session. This means that delegates will no longer receive \$2 per session attended or for mileage to and from their Grange halls.

The June due date for the second quarter has passed and there are a number of Granges that have not yet sent in their dues.

Please be aware that the June quarter determines which Granges are able to have delegates seated at State Session. Please get your Quarterly Reports in to me as soon as possible. Granges that owe dues for the second quarter and prior cannot be seated.

Let's make sure ALL of our Granges are represented at this first State Session for our "new" State Master Noel Miller!

MAILING LISTS

Letters recently went out to all Granges requesting updated mailing lists. It's been a number of years since this has been required. Please send your lists to the Central Office or email them to the address listed above. Once we have received your complete lists we will require updates with each Quarterly Report to ensure our files stay current. The Digest requires all Granges to supply this information on a quarterly basis. We thank the Secretaries who have been so prompt in sending in their lists. Please let me know if you need any assistance or have any questions.

OFFICERS' LISTS

Elections for most of our Granges should now be over and the officers listings are due at the Central Office. If you have lost or misplaced your form, please let me know and I'll be happy to send you a new one. We would like to have the Directories out earlier this year and your prompt returns are appreciated.

DUES RECEIPTS

If your Grange has not sent in it's order sheet for Dues Receipts, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to have the booklets out at the same time the Call to State Session is sent out (I can dream!). If you does not send in an order slip, I will order what was ordered last year and your Grange will be billed accordingly.

Thank you for reading this extremely long column! It's just one of those times of the year when I have a lot of information to get out to all of you.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please make your reservations early by calling the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel at **860-257-6000**. **Make sure you mention the Connecticut State Grange** to receive our group rate (\$89 plus tax) for the Convention. If you have any problems making a reservation or have any questions, please call or email me.



Freund Farm in Canaan



Amanda Freund

Continued from page one...

when we first packed up the family minivan with cases and shrink wrapped samples of CowPots made in our farm shop and drove to hardware stores and garden centers to market this new product. What is a CowPot you may wonder? It is a biodegradable, plantable pot made from composted manure from our dairy cows. Each pot is formed, dried and packed; we offer 12 sizes as well as custom shapes and sizes.

It was face-to-face interactions, networking and an invitation by Mike Rowe to come film an episode of Dirty Jobs on our farm that has allowed CowPots to become a product that gardeners are finally starting to ask for! These experiences led to expansions in production and capacity, all the while recognizing the need to keep our cows happy, healthy and comfortable, so that we could continue to supply two important products from our farm – quality, fresh milk and enough cow poop to make millions of CowPots. We're even more vigilant about resource stewardship (cow manure included) because of its great value to our operation. This is one of the practices on our farm that allowed us to successfully apply for and receive a

Sustainability Award from the U.S. Innovation Center on Dairy this year.

How will farming evolve in the next five years?

Just this spring we broke ground to build a brand new dairy cow barn, which will include five Lely robotic milkers. This new facility will allow us to better meet our cows' needs with improved ventilation, air quality, mattress comfort, clean alleys, less standing and waiting time to be milked and even back scratchers! No joke, we are installing five mechanized, rotating brushes to help our 300 cows get that "out of reach" spot. I've heard the expression that as farmers we don't take the milk from the cows, they give it to us. And dairy farmers know that only a comfortable, happy cow is going to give her milk. Additionally, we're expecting rumination collars in the coming months, which will go on each of our cows. Similar to a pedometer tracking number of steps, these collars will track the number of times our cows "ruminate." We will be able to track each cows' rumination to detect illnesses much earlier as well as find out when cows are in heat.

The other big evolution for our farm in the next five years is the transition from second to third generation. My siblings, cousin and I have each graduated college and chosen to continue our family's legacy and tradition. We have a lot to learn about managing the three businesses, but I think we'll be bringing in the millennial attitude while staying true to our family's farming mission: To run a profitable dairy open to the possibility of diversification, operating in an ecologically aware

environment, practicing proper animal handling, and respecting our neighbors and community.

What is your greatest challenge as a farmer?

Risk management. In the dairy business, we are not price setters but price takers. The market dictates what we receive for the gallons of milk produced on our farm regardless of what it costs us to produce it. As a result, farmers, dairy especially, have to be well-versed in understanding programs like the new Margin Protection Program offered through USDA and knowing how to stretch a dollar when prices drop below costs. Diversifying is a common business practice on dairy farms to lessen the impact of devastated prices. Farmers market compost or converting an acre of hay to growing pumpkins for pick your own sales are examples.

Meanwhile, we are all vulnerable to Mother Nature and droughts, floods, hail, freezes, and so on, which can literally wipe out the crops we grow to feed our animals all year round. Tropical storms have introduced new pests to our region that, if not managed, can also destroy our crops. There are so many variables when you're a farmer, and it's so important to remember that every farm is a business too. You always have to strive to make your income at least match cost, and in a good year, exceed it. It can feel like juggling sometimes, but for any farm to continue from year to year and generation to generation, they have to have a plan that will help them weather the (natural and financial) storms.

How does a farmer know what a retailer will want a year from now?

It's been an interesting learning curve for our dairy farming family to have the

experience of "marketing" CowPots. Since the very inception of this dairy farm, we have been members of the dairy cooperative, Agri-mark. We are responsible for producing high-quality and nutritious milk 365 days a year, and our cooperative manages the transportation and marketing. When it comes to our value-added product, CowPots, it's on us to find the buyers, engage with retailers and know what consumers are looking for. Knowing what a retailer wants is not a passive process. It requires engagement, asking questions, providing samples, having test markets, sharing statistics, and more. We are fortunate to be producing a product that is recognized for being recycled and for its sustainability. I think more and more customers are demanding these types of products, and so retailers are looking to offer them.

What steps are you taking toward conservation on the farm?

There are so many opportunities to continue to adopt conservation practices on our farm. Here is what we currently do on our farm: Capture biogas from our anaerobic methane digester, which is burned to heat our farm buildings and hot water.

Generate 139 kw of electricity with 500+ solar panels. This is the equivalent to meeting the dairy farm's electricity needs.

In the field: Practice rotational cropping, no-till and zone-till cropping, conduct biannual soil tests, practice integrated pest management, application of liquid manure through irrigation-style system.

For our water, we use the motto, "Keep clean water clean and dirty water contained." All areas with animals or manure are covered to prevent leaching nutrients. Riparian buffers along both rivers passing through our farm have been improved with the planting of native species. Animals are fenced out of waterways.

Appliance upgrades to include lights, fans, pumps, motors to be more energy efficient.

Actively maintaining a Nutrient Management Plan and a Forestry Stewardship Plan.

Do you sell any of your

products locally, and if so, what is the process?

Our milk is frequently delivered to the Guida's bottling plant in New Britain, CT where it is pasteurized and delivered to grocery stores around the state as fluid drinking milk. As members of the Cabot Cooperative, our milk is also used for the production of Cabot branded products, including Cabot butter!

CowPots are manufactured here on our farm and are sold locally, nationally and internationally. Just this year Tractor Supply Co. included two styles of CowPots in each of their stores nationwide. We are looking forward to working with True Value as a vendor for the 2016 growing season and will continue to work with commercial growers, distributors and retailers. For a list of 'where to buy' CowPots, visit: <http://cowpots.com/where-to-buy>.

What kinds of reactions do you get from consumers when they meet you in person?

Our dairy cooperative put together a great program in 2013 called The Gratitude Tour in NYC (we look forward to doing it again November 15). Over 80 dairy farmers from New England and New York traveled down to NYC and spent the day in front of grocery stores in Manhattan and Brooklyn, thanking New Yorkers for supporting the Cabot brand. During my six-hour stint on the corner of Union and Broadway, not only did I receive a handful of thank yous from passers-by, but a New Yorker actually stopped and hugged me (a complete stranger) for the work I do as a farmer. Too often we let social media and trending news stories dictate what information we receive. People still like to engage with other people in person and are seeking real information about where their food comes from. I think they appreciate that I can tell them about my family and our experience and how we care for our 300 cows. It seals the deal when I can show off a branded product including Cabot's cheese, yogurts, butters, whipped cream, and more, and let people know that supporting this brand supports the 1,200 family farms that are cooperative members, mine included. We make customers for life because local is better!

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

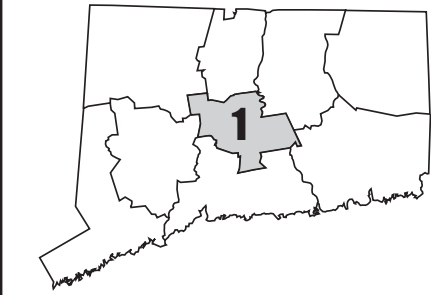
or

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Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Robert Charbonneau
Meriden Grange will be celebrating its 130th anniversary at 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 12th at the Meriden Grange Hall. We are planning a presentation, some entertainment and some light refreshment. If you are planning on coming to our celebration we are also having a Family-Style Roast Pork Supper at 5:00 PM. To RSVP for our Roast Pork Supper, please contact: Cindy Charbonneau at (203) 237-4617 or e-mail us at meriden@ctstategrange.org.

Information about Meriden Grange Fair is also available on our website at: <http://www.meridengrange.org/grangeagfair.asp> and downloads of our Fair Premium Book and Entry Forms are also available.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn
Aug. 14: Picnic and Meeting
Aug. 28: Omit- Summer Vacation
Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Deadline for PR Contests nears

by *Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

Time sure is flying by, and October 1st, the deadline for the Public Relations contests, is not far away! This summer is the perfect time to be working on our contests for your Grange.

The Public Relations committee has scaled back our offering of contests and has only three contests for 2015. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

1) Promote Your Grange Creative Video Contest: Create a video promoting your Grange. The video can be any length, and of any theme.

2) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your

Grange has integrated/ utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.

3) Social Media Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page. This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be

active at any point within the period of November 1, 2014 - October 1, 2015.

All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the CT State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org, and are available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

Fair Time in Connecticut



Cheshire's lawn signs are ready for their upcoming fair.

There's a lot to see and do at Connecticut's Agricultural Fairs this summer and fall. Here's a listing of the Fairs coming up...

Major Fairs

- Lebanon Country Fair August 7-9
- Bridgewater Country Fair August 21-23
- Wolcott Country Fair August 21-23
- Wolcott Counry Fair August 21-23
- Brooklyn Fair August 27-30
- Chester Fair August 28-30
- Terryville Lions Country Fair August 28-30
- Haddam Neck Fair September 4-7
- Woodstock Fair September 4-7
- Goshen Fair September 5-7
- Bethlehem Fair September 11-13
- Hebron Harvest Fair September 10-13
- North Haven Fair September 10-13
- Four Town Fair September 17-20
- Guilford Fair September 18-20
- Orange Country Fair September 19-20
- Durham Fair September 24-27
- Berlin Fair October 2-4
- Harwinton Fair October 3-4
- Portland Agr. Fair October 9-11

District Fairs


- Hamburg Fair August 21-23
- Wapping Fair September 10-13
- Ledyard Fair September 11-13
- Riverton Fair October 9-11

4H Fairs

- Tolland County 4H Fair August 7-9
- Hartford County 4H Fair August 14-16

Local Fairs

- Norwich Grange Fair August 1
- Ekonk Grange Fair August 8
- Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market August 8
- Riverton Grange Fair August 15
- Southington Grange Fair August 15
- Cheshire Grange Community Fair August 22-23
- Cannon Grange Fair August 30
- Hillstown Grange Ag. Fair September 12
- Meriden Grange Fair September 12
- Simsbury Grange Fair September 12
- Killingly Grange Fair September 19
- Wallingford Grange Fair September 19



Deadline for next issue: August 5!



PREMIUM BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

130th Anniv. of Meriden Grange and 90th Anniv. of our Hall

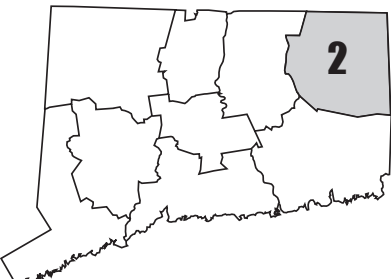
86th Annual Fair

Sponsored by
Meriden Grange, No. 29

September 12th, 2015- From 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
At the Meriden Grange Hall, 540 Broad Street, Meriden, CT

www.meridengrange.org/grangeagfair.asp

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Aug. 3: Grange 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 8: 33rd Annual FAIR!

We met in July at the Brooklyn home of Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron. Several enjoyed their pool, all enjoyed the potluck supper. The Charter was draped in memory of 60 year Granger, Edwin Benjamin Sr. We held our officers planning meeting and now have an official "Web Master"! Matt Maher accepted the position. He will also be handling FACEBOOK for the Grange. Thanks to Paulette Craig for stepping up to the plate as Fair Secretary this year. She has enthusiasm and energy; both fantastic! We have teams volunteering at Washington County Fair again this year and several signed up to work in the Pomona Booth at Brooklyn Fair. J. Allen Cameron and Shelley St. Jean have moved back to CT and J. Allen has accepted a position at a large dairy farm in Hebron. We wished our President Happy 21st Birthday at the meeting at Cameron's home--we all enjoyed her cake and she endured our singing!

Katie is truly a faithful Granger to spend her 21st birthday running a Grange meeting! Congratulations to Pomona Scholarship winners: Jaimie Cameron (continuing education) and Jacob Gervais (graduating Senior). We also voted to submit the name of J. Allen Cameron as Outstanding Young Farmer. Our Fair premium books are available. State Senator and Ekonk Granger, Mae Flexer, gave a legislative update and answered questions on the budget.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Aug. 11: Omit

Aug. 25: "Here We Go Again"

We donated our penny collection to "From the Heart" Organization. We also are still making the squares for them. Alma Graham entered the National Quilt Contest. We had our annual picnic at Jim and Pat Palmer's home. A good time was had by all.

Everyone is busy gardening this time of year.

Have a nice summer.

Ekonk Awards Luncheon



Ekonk Awards Luncheon- "check" for \$783.00 presented to representative from American Cancer Society by event Co-Chairman, Link Cooper.



by *Hank the Burro*

Hello Grange Friends!

I have been relaxing and taking a little vacation this past month. It's always good to rest and revitalize! I'm sure Noel will have me back on the road soon!

If you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Would you like me to visit your Grange or your Grange's activities? Please email me or contact the State Master to see if he can bring me to your Grange. I love to travel and meet new friends and see some of the friends I've met over the last couple of years in my travels around the State.

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



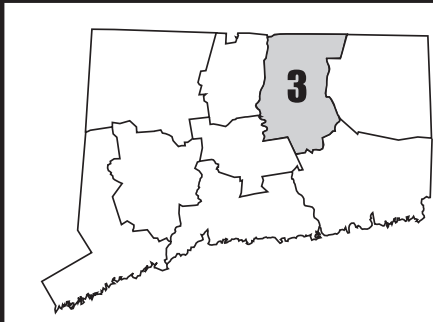
A summer meeting... outdoors!



Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 held a meeting in July BUT not at the Grange Hall. The meeting was held at the new home of Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron. The business meeting was held under a canopy in the front yard and then a picnic was enjoyed poolside afterward. A good time was had by all and dessert included a cake to celebrate the 21st birthday of Grange Master Katie Molodich. Happy Birthday, Katie!



East Central Pomona No. 3



Stafford No. 1
 Granby No. 5
 Glastonbury No. 26
 Manchester No. 31
 ✓ Vernon No. 52
 ✓ Coventry No. 75
 Hillstown No. 87
 ✓ Enfield No. 151
 Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

No meeting in August.

Next meeting is on Sept. 12 plus or minus. Coventry Grange will be the host. Enjoy your summer and see you in the fall.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Sept. 4: Tales of the Summer – Where did you go and what did you do?

We are off and starting a new season for Vernon Grange and it's looking like fun programs. On September 4th we will share our travel adventures during the summer (and on summers past). Everyone

always has a fun tale to tell!

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

We are here! We are here!... as Horton Hears a Who would say. We are still working on the hall and landscape, pulling weeds in the back. Maybe it will have a picnic area for this fall. Stay cool and drink plenty of water.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Sept. 12: Indian Summer
 No news to report from Enfield Grange. Plan to visit us. Our next meeting is "Indian Summer" on September 12.

Hillstown Grange No. 87: We're Alive and Well!

*Lauri Voter,
 Reminder News*

A group of dedicated Hillstown Grange No. 87 members gathered for a chili dinner and gardening event on Thursday, June 25. Chili ingredients included vegetables grown in the gardens of Grange members.

The gathering was just one of countless social events held at Hillstown Grange throughout the decades. The chapter was organized in 1888 in a section of Connecticut then known as Hillstown, which has since become part of East Hartford. In

1867, the National Grange was formed in Washington, D.C. Subsequently, state and local Granges, such as Hillstown, began organizing throughout the country in the late 19th century to support post-Civil War agricultural interests. "The Grange was actually founded to give farmers a voice in politics," said Frank Forrest, president/master of Hillstown Grange No. 87. Further, Grange Halls represented the highly-significant social element of Grange life. Grange dances and other social events were popular in Grange communities,

explained Hillstown Grange members.

Hillstown Grange Steward and Agricultural Committee Chairman Debbie Dubitsky said that the Hillstown Grange building once served as a location for church meetings, because there were no church buildings in the Hillstown area in the late 19th century.

Through the century, Granges have undergone transitions in their roles, especially as land sell-offs spurred by economic development have caused a decline in farming communities. Yet, while the Grange is steeped in tradition - from its formal ceremonies to its nomenclature - Hillstown Grange members say that the Grange is also keeping pace with the times. "Today, we're a social organization for backyard gardeners and people who would like to have a little fun," said Hillstown Grange member Curt Upton. "This is the most fun I've ever had," he said.

Forrest said that the Hillstown Grange Hall's kitchen is inspected and certified by the State of

Connecticut. As a result, the Grange still intends to stay true to its "home-economics" foundation of agriculture and handcrafts, such as crochet, needlework and preserve-making. To this end, the Hillstown Grange will sponsor upcoming events related to these activities, including an event dedicated to making home-made applesauce. Other yearly events include a seed giveaway in March, a corned beef and cabbage dinner in March, a Bluegrass night in April, and a fair in September. The Hillstown Grange also participates in the East Hartford Holiday Fest each year. On Aug. 27, 2015, Hillstown Grange will host an awards night. In July 2016, the Hillstown Grange will be the anticipated site of the annual state crochet contest, said Forrest.

In addition, the Grange still maintains an active voice in public policy. "To this day," said Forrest, "we're encouraged to come up with resolutions to pass on through the channels." He cites an example of seatbelts on school buses or keeping school buses off highways, as current

suggestions made by Grange members to the Connecticut legislative assembly.

Hillstown Grange Vice-President/Overseer Jon Hykes said that he has recommended a resolution on "full disclosure on campaign funding."

According to Forrest, the Hillstown Grange is unique in that it is one of two Granges in Connecticut that offers a junior membership, which is open to youth ages 5 to 14. Junior members are able to participate in field trips and other activities dedicated to younger generations. In conjunction, the Hillstown Grange is developing initiatives to maintain and grow membership levels within the community. For instance, Forrest said that the Grange plans to change its meeting formats by limiting the amount of formal meetings - those meetings conducted "in full form." In addition, the Grange Hall will be available for use by community groups such as the Girl Scouts and the Lions Club.

"The Grange is not dead," said Upton. "We're alive and well."

Thank you from the Bernhardtts

THANK YOU!!! Such small words, but with so much heartfelt thanks behind them. Until you are the one confined to a small hospital room you don't realize how much the cards and greetings mean. I sincerely thank everyone who sent them to me. Grangers are wonderful people. -Carl Bernhardt

They grow 'em big at Hillstown!



Anyone up for giant rhubarb? biggest leaf I have ever grown. — Frank Forrest

Thank you from Nancy Weissmuller

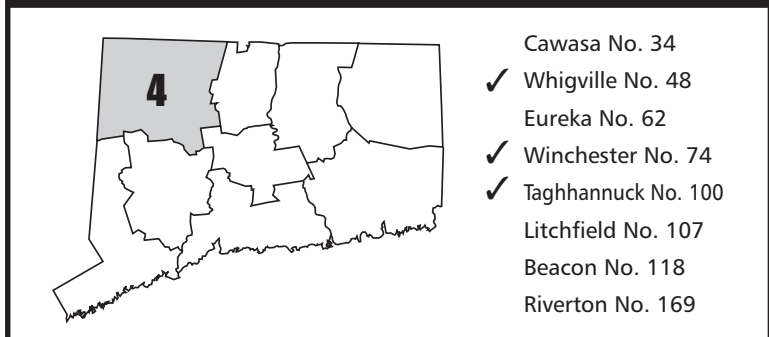
Thank you so much to all for the cards received when I was recuperating from the hospital.

Nancy Weissmuller
 N. Stonington Grange #138



Members of Hillstown Grange at a recent meeting.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Riverton No. 169

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Mountain County Pomona does not meet in August but our members should be busy selling the Gift Card Drawing Tickets that were distributed at the June meeting in Sharon. The drawing will be held on September 14 at Riverton Grange Hall following the Installation of Officers. Tickets are \$1.00 and are available from all Pomona officers and some members. Please support Mountain County in this very important fundraiser, the only one held by the Pomona each year.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

The Whigville Grange is back "home" at our hall for the warm weather. Our June meeting was a busy

one, with inspection, a dairy dinner, and program. Our Fair date is Sept. 26, and we will be busy with pies for Burlington Tavern Day before that. Contact any of us to enter our Fair, and come see us at our next meeting, Aug. 12 at 7:00 P.M.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Aug. 8: Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market

Aug. 11: Anything Goes, Country Store

Aug. 25: Annual Picnic & Awards Night

Please note that the calendar for August in the Pomona Handbook is incorrect. The Grange Fair & Flea Market will be held on August 8 and the first meeting of August will be on the 11th. We're hoping for perfect weather

and large crowds for our annual Grange Fair and Flea Market. Exhibits of Fruits, Vegetables, Bakery and Flowers will fill the main hall while a large book sale will fill the lower level. Café 74 will offer delicious hot dogs, sandwiches, salads and ice cream throughout the day. Don't forget the kid's games and the flea market on the green to round out the fun. It's a great day to get out and enjoy Winchester Center. Join us! Admission, as always, is free and parking is also free!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange had a very successful plant/rummage sale enabling us to give out two camperships to Camp Berger.

Our new Chaplain's Memorial Program was deeply felt with thanks to Mary Lou Keefe for playing the piano to help the singing along. We are again talking about entering the Bethlehem Fair with a Grange exhibit. This year the Fair will be September 11-13.

Our annual Grange picnic will be held at the Prindle's house on August 13th at 6:30 P.M. and is a potluck with hot dogs and hamburgers supplied. At our regular meeting on August 27th Barbara Rosenfeld will give a talk about the Last Resort.

Please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TaghannuckGrange as we post pictures from our events and welcome more likes.

Coming in October!



The original Ekonk Grange Hall.

Coming Soon! Limited edition 15 month calendars featuring 15 different Grange Halls and meeting places (many now lost to history). The calendars will be spiral bound with color and black and white pictures. Many photos featured will be from the 1940s and earlier. Very collectible! The first edition of this calendar will be available beginning in October. If the demand warrants, there will be a new calendar featuring different halls/meeting places each year. A great holiday gift! More in the coming months and look for them at State Session!

Norfield Dictionaries



Norfield Grange #146 recently participated in the Dictionary Project by distributing dictionaries to a local school: Top Picture - Back Row (left to right): 3rd Grade Teacher - Mr. Kevin Santiana, Norfield Grangers Roland Poirier, Lyn Kimberly & Anna Kimberly (former student of Mr. Santiana's). Bottom Picture - Norfield Grangers distributing dictionaries: Lyn Kimberly, Anna Kimberly & Roland Poirier.



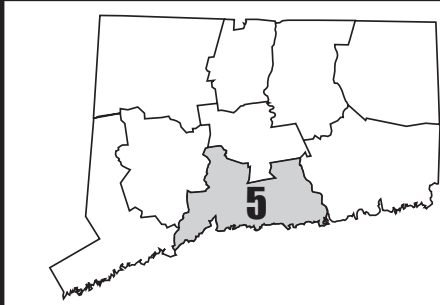
The Good Life on the Great Plains

Hosted by the Great Plains Region



The 149th Annual National Grange Convention
Lincoln, NE | November 10-14, 2015

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



Cheshire No. 23
Wallingford No. 33
North Haven No. 35

MISSION STATEMENT

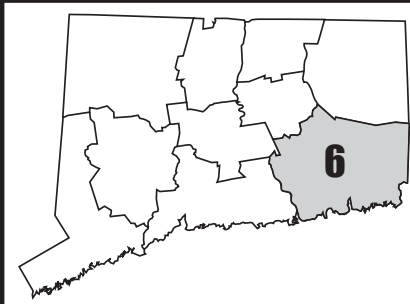
New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: *Wesle Dymoke*

Aug. 17: 6:00, Picnic at the Bernhardtts, 424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire. Potluck at 6:30 P.M. The Pomona will furnish dessert and drinks.

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21
Colchester No. 78
Pachaug No. 96
Preston City No. 110
N. Stonington Community No. 138 ✓
Lyme No. 147
Stonington No. 168
Norwich No. 172
Groton Community No. 213 ✓

MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: *Nancy R. Weissmuller*

Aug. 8: Picnic at Bluff Point

Sept. 17: Remember Labor Day, Pachaug Grange

We were excited and happy to have every Subordinate Grange represented at our June meeting at Stonington Grange, as well as welcoming two visitors from East Central Pomona. Dick Tarryk entertained us on his accordion, much to the delight of all.

Get your tickets before they're gone! Tickets for the NLP raffle will go on sale in August and the drawing will be held at our November 13th meeting at North Stonington Grange. Prizes are as follows: \$250.00 sound system; \$100 gift certificate for

Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, \$50 gift certificate for Harts' Greenhouses, \$25.00 gift certificate for LoPresti Farm, Lowes, Olive Garden and WalMart and a \$25 basket of gardening supplies. Tickets are \$1.00 each and may be purchased from members of our Pomona. And please come to our September meeting at Pachaug Grange.

Pachaug is lovely when the leaves turn red.

And brown and orange and gold.

So come to the meeting and bring all your friends

Get your tickets before they're all sold.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: *Nancy R. Weissmuller*

Aug. 14: "Staggered"

Aug. 28: "Thunderstruck" Election of Officers

found all officers returning to their positions. We must be doing a good job. Our picnic was well attended by adults, but youngsters were in short supply. That didn't prevent those present from enjoying Sue's games, while the rest of us enjoyed the food and companionship of a lovely June evening.

We are in the process of replacing our front porch/steps and back steps. The years have taken their toll on the cement and sills of our hall. All should be "shiny and new" by Fair time.

Our August programs are always lots of fun. The men

have the program and the ladies the refreshments on August 14th and the tables are turned on the 28th. Hope to see a big crowd for both meetings. And if those big, hairy gypsy moths will just move on to other chewing grounds, next time we'll tell you about jolly July.

GROTON COMM. GRANGE #213

Corr: *Susan Kenney*

The Groton Grange has a new home. The Groton Grange has moved! The new location is:

S a i n t A n d r e w
Presbyterian Church
310 Fort Hill Rd, Groton,

CT 06340.

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm. All are welcomed to attend! Come join us at our new spacious location!

The June meeting was held at our new home. The lecture was given by special guests who talked of the importance of documenting and researching your family tree.

The Groton Grange is doing a snack fund raiser. Please contact one of our members to assist with our worthy cause!

Sales items for the N.E. Grange Building



Thanks to Liz and Helen Ryducha Cheshire Grange has 175 Lotus Blossom Scarves ready for sale at the Big E. Only 4 hats but there are more to come before the Fair.

Handmade mittens and hats are urgently needed for the store in the New England Grange Building during the Eastern States Exposition (Big E). Also needed are kitchen towels, scrubbies and Christmas ornaments. For more information, please contact Irene Percoski: perkigirl35@att.net or you can contact us at the Granger for more information.



BLT Pasta Salad



Many Granges have special picnics and potlucks during the summer months. Hunts has a perfect warm weather recipe for BLT Pasta Salad that is quick and easy, and delicious too!

8 ounces dry whole grain penne pasta, uncooked

1 can (14.5 oz each) Hunt's® Diced Tomatoes-No Salt Added, drained

1/3 cup light mayonnaise

1/4 teaspoon garlic salt

1 pkg (6 oz each) refrigerated diced oven roasted chicken breast

10 slices fully cooked bacon, heated, chopped

2 cups baby spinach leaves, coarsely chopped

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse under cold water until cool. Meanwhile, stir together drained tomatoes, mayonnaise and garlic salt in large bowl. Add pasta, chicken and bacon; toss to combine ingredients. Add spinach; gently toss together. Chill and serve.

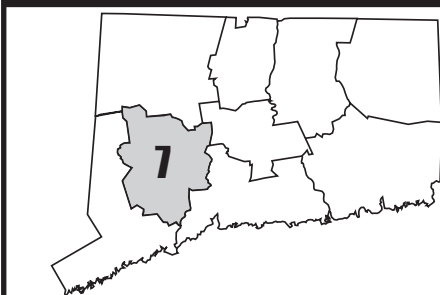
Source: <http://www.hunts.com/recipes-BLT-Pasta-Salad-5570>

Cheshire gets crafty



Cheshire Grange Craft Night was held on July 13th at 7:30. We have lots of work to get done before Christmas!

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Aug. 16: (Sunday)- Pomona Picnic, 12 Noon at the Maddox house

Aug. 24: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. Ref. By Cheryl and Ray Johnstone

Election of Officers was held with a couple of changes: Linda Coad is Steward, Luci Greco is Pomona and Eleanor Burke is on the CWA.

We will host the Pomona Installation of Officers on Sept. 16 as Rob Buck is the new Pomona Master.

On Sat., Nov. 21, we will hold another Flea Market from 9:00 A.M. til 1:00 P.M. Table space will be available for \$25 by calling Linda at 203-264-8151.

We gave a Campership to Linda's granddaughter.

We will do an exhibit at Bethlehem Fair again this year.

Congratulations to Barbara Robert who won second place at the State Celebration Day for her cupcakes.

Brianna Miller was

awarded the Washington Grange Scholarship.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

We had our regular meeting on Wednesday, June 10th. Officers were elected for Oct. 2015 to Sept. 2017. Nancy Mascio remains as our Master.

On June 17th we hosted the Excelsior Pomona meeting at our temporary hall at Saint Mark's Church. There is still no word on what the town plans to do with our old Grange Hall.

Dorothy Gustafson celebrated her 100th birthday this June. She is doing very well and lives at home with minimal assistance.

We are saddened by the loss of two of our members. Inga Britt Engelbrektsson and Elinor Hurlbut passed in May.

The Bridgewater Grange will have a Roast Beef Dinner at Saint Mark's Church off of Route 133 across from the Bridgewater

Grange. The time will be 5:30 to 7:30 on Saturday, July 18. The cost will be \$15.00.

We will have a big presence at the Bridgewater Fair on August 21, 22 and 23 this year. We will be running a farmers market

with 6 local farmers selling their produce. The Bridgewater Grange will have a stand and we will be selling tickets and giving information about an upcoming exciting event. We will be sponsoring a Farm to Table Dinner at the

pavilion in the Bridgewater Recreation Area on Saturday September 12th. Local farmers will be serving up their special produce for a unique dining experience. Further details will soon be available.

Oxford Grange holds open mic night



Oxford Grange #194 held its 9th monthly Open Mic this past Monday night with a pot-luck supper to start the evening. About 50 were in attendance. These programs feature various local musical performers. Monday night, we were pleased to host members of the Midsummer Fantasy Renaissance Fair group who entertained us with several musical selections and mock sword-fights. Martin Earley of the Grange and Oxford Cultural Arts Commission is in charge of the event. We welcome any interested performers including music, comedy, poetry, or skits to our monthly Open Mic held the second Monday of each month with sign-up starting 6:30 PM and program commences at 7:00 PM. Follow Oxford Grange #194 on Facebook. Call 203-267-6796 for more information.

Locally and Connecticut Grown



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In this last legislative session, one of the bills passed concerned the labeling of produce as "Connecticut Grown" and "Locally Grown". This new law which will take effect on October 1st increases fines for mislabeling products at farmers markets from \$25.00 to \$100.00. There had been complaints that some sellers were advertising out-of-state products as local. With this change in the regulations, sellers who claim that their vegetables have been raised in Connecticut, as "Connecticut Grown", will be required to post a sign at the farmers market stating the name of the grower and the location of the farm. Any vegetables being sold at any markets that are grown within a 10 mile radius of that location can be labeled as "native", "native grown", "local" or "locally grown".

There are some Granges that sponsor farmers markets and should be aware of these changes in the labeling law. Anyone who frequents the local farmers markets should also be aware of these changes. The Department of Agriculture will issue one warning before posting fines to encourage individuals to comply with

the regulations.

Last year I mentioned one of the state Department of Agriculture grants that allow municipalities and non-profit organizations to create or expand agriculture related programs and activities. In a recent CT Weekly Ag report put out by the Department of Agriculture they highlighted an organization that took advantage of one of these programs.

Using an old banquet hall, the group created a commercial kitchen and community garden. The non-profit CLiCK (Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen) opened this last spring. CLiCK is located in the town of Windham and took advantage of the State Farm Viability Grant along with other state and federal grants. It opened its doors

to farmers, food producers and anyone else interested in making or learning about food preparation with freshly grown ingredients. A major focus is to support the farm-to-table opportunities as well as education and training in nutrition and culinary arts.

Kitchen and shelf space are rented by the day or month with the fees helping to sustain the facility. One client that was mentioned in the article sells hotdogs out of a trailer and is now able to expand her menu by using the kitchen to include healthy options. The facility has also installed some bee hives, fruit trees, berry bushes and a composting tank. A common theme was to address the need for people to improve their health through better eating by teaching people to cook for themselves.

Granger Shout Out

Congratulations Andrew Molodich! 2 first places and 1st overall in races! Check him out on Facebook-holding his trophy!

Shout Out to Ruth B. Hirst, Golden Sheaf, (3/4 Degrees May 22, 1942), on turning 90 on September 23, 2015;. Received Seventh Degree on November 15, 1948 in Portland, Maine. For many years she was on the ladies degree team at North Stonington Grange when the late Marcia Thompson was Master of it. Served as Pomona in the 1940s'. Mother of two sons Scott Bill Hirst, a Granger, and James R. Hirst - from Scott Bill Hirst.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org
Mail to: P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, Connecticut 06069

64th Annual WINCHESTER GRANGE

FAIR AND FLEA MARKET

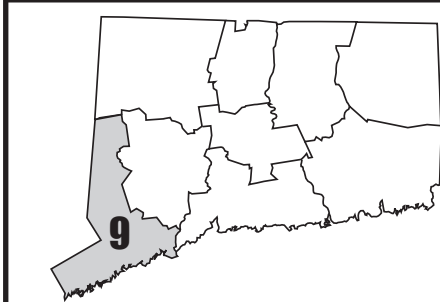
SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2015
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Winchester Grange Hall
100 Newfield Road • Winchester Center

Contests & Exhibits
Food from Café 74
Book Sale • Bake Sale
Kid's Games • Fun

www.WinchesterGrange.org

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier/
George Ward

In June, Harmony held its Annual Spring Boutique, which included the sale of baked goods, jewelry, and household items (many of which were donated by Barbara Standley). Maggie Buck from the State Grange Membership Committee set up a table with info regarding the Grange, in hopes of increasing our membership.

At our June meeting, Worthy Deputy Geno Piacentini, assisted by his wife Karen Macdonald, conducted our Annual Inspection. Marge Sendewicz and Marie & Kevin Parker filled in as officers and Joan Ziegler was our pianist.

In July, Harmony Grange's President George Ward and his wife Gloria had an enjoyable visit with 70 year plus Granger, Gertrude Wilson, who is a resident of Lord Chamberlain

Nursing & Rehab Facility in Stratford.

HG's annual Agriculture Fair is scheduled for August 15th from 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. on the Grange premises. Food items (including pulled pork) and drinks will be for sale and our judging will include vegetables, plants, jellies, jams and needlework, etc. A membership table will be set up and farm equipment and several local groups will have their products displayed. As always, we welcome vendors.

Plans are progressing for HG's 125th Anniversary, with its date, time and events to be announced.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Aug. 17: Last Minute Planning Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Aug. 22: Annual Agricultural Fair, 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Sept. 5: Tomato Tasting, 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

In June, we had our Election of Officers and our Grange was inspected by Geno Piacentini, Deputy of Fairfield County Pomona and Karen Macdonald, Ceres of the Connecticut State Grange. We are in the midst of completing the roster of elected officers and finish information required for the Pomona handbook.

In August the focus will be our Annual Fair, which will feature exhibits of flowers and vegetables, home baking and canning; needlework and crafts; bake sale; food; historical and educational displays; games for kids; and special activities. Competitive exhibits may be brought in 7-9 PM. The evening before or 7:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. Fair day.

Early September we will be hosting Fairfield County Pomona for a dinner at 6 P.M. and meeting at 7:30 P.M. (Sept. 2nd on Saturday the 5th the Tomato Tasting will be held in connection with the local seed library.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our hall for the above events.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Lyn Kimberly

Aug. 11: Grange BBQ (All are welcome), 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 3: (Sunday) Community & Beyond Welcome at our 48th Annual Grange Agricultural Fair & Market, 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Sept. 15: Installation of Officers, 7:30 P.M.

The 5th Annual Community Tag Sale a

success (run by a team of Norfield Grange members assigned to each day) is behind us...planning in the works for next year to make it bigger and better for next year. Stay tuned for 2016 dates.

Our big Spring Community Project..."The Dictionary Project"! A Team of Norfield Grangers descended on Weston Intermediate School to visit with the 3rd Grade Team Leader Mr. Kevin Santiana and his class as well as the School Principal Mrs. Patti Falber joined in the first time ever Weston Public Schools has participated in the Dictionary Project. The kids were all very excited to receive a copy of their very own Dictionary...great to pair up with their Summer Reading List!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Aug. 30: Our 83rd Agricultural Fair, 10 Am - 4 PM

Sept 3: Business Meeting
Sept 17: Installation of Officers

Dec. 5: Holiday Market

We look forward to presenting our annual Agricultural Fair on Sunday, August 30th. The days' events are planned with families, children and adults in mind to demonstrate the values of the Grange. We're ready for the crowds that attend our fair each year. It is our pleasure to present an authentic agricultural

fair with the interior of the Grange Hall set up as an Exhibition Hall for the judged exhibits, as well as beautiful exhibits by our concessionaires and community organizations. There will be music, games and food available, too. Admission is \$2 per person, OR \$1 with a non-perishable for the Food Shelter.

Mark your calendar for our well-known Holiday Market on Saturday, December 5th. Our Holiday Market resembles the European Christmas Markets featuring handmade crafts, candies and baked goods, clothing and jewelry, plants and wreaths, food and music.

Of special note, we thank our Grange member, State Representative Gail Lavielle for hosting a highly acclaimed Legislative wrap-up for our Legislative Night featuring Gail, State Rep Tom O'Dea and State Senator Toni Boucher. Fabulous handouts summarizing legislative actions taken by both chambers, and a lively question and answer period with a very large and attentive audience. Well Done!! We'll be holding another Legislative Night in the early new year. Stand by for the date.

We encourage all Grange members to visit as many Agricultural Fairs as possible this Summer, and support the local Grange.

Find us on FaceBook, and Follow us on Twitter @CannonGrange.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



We had one phone call regarding last month's picture but have not been able to confirm the answers-- If you think you know, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you!



National Grange Legislative Update

EPA is Determined to Enforce Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule

What is the WOTUS Rule?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin enforcing its Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation on August 28. The final version is more specific about what would be exempt such as underground drainage from farm land. However, it also makes significant changes in definitions of tributaries and regulated wetlands. Definitions of tributaries were actually broadened in the final rule making so-called tributaries even more difficult for landowners to identify (they may even be invisible to the landowner or may no longer exist on the landscape). The final rule allows the agencies to identify tributaries based entirely on past rather than current conditions using “desktop” tools to indicate ephemeral tributaries were once present. Essentially, tributaries include any landscape feature where water sometimes flows in that feature and eventually reaches navigable water, no matter how many miles away. Therefore, WOTUS could well become a federal land use control mechanism that regulates practices for entire watersheds.

The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 1732 which would require consultation with local and state governments, alter the way tributaries are identified and sets limits on what wetlands could be regulated. The House also passed the Energy and Water Appropriations bill with a provision that blocks EPA from using appropriated funds (FY’16) to implement the WOTUS regulation. Several more appropriations bills pending in the House and Senate contain blocking language for FY ‘16 as do several more free-standing bills.

The President has promised to veto legislation that blocks or restricts implementation of the WOTUS rule. Therefore it is important that Congress pass anti-WOTUS legislation, 1) by a veto-proof majority or, 2) roll WOTUS-blocking appropriations bills into a FY ‘16 omnibus spending package that would shut down the government if the President vetoes the omnibus.

In the meantime, 12 farmer, rancher, landowner, forest, manufacturing, building, and transportation groups have filed a complaint against the EPA and Corps of Engineers in a Texas federal district court. The complaint claims the new WOTUS rule goes beyond the intentions of the Clean Water Act, exercises broad control over land use and is unconstitutional. In addition, 28 states have now filed lawsuits to halt the WOTUS rule in 5 U.S. District Courts in Georgia, Ohio, Oklahoma,

North Dakota and Texas.

Actions for Grangers:

Contact your Senators and Representatives by phone, email or letter immediately and urge them to vote against Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule at every opportunity. Then, contact their state office (Senators) or district office (Representatives) to set up a face-to-face meeting when Congress is home for their month-long August Recess.

A Reasonable Compromise to GMO Labeling?

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599) on a huge 275-150 bipartisan vote. The bill clearly establishes FDA as the nation’s lead authority on food safety. It creates a voluntary labeling program administered by USDA and would certify that foods bearing the label do not contain GMO ingredients. The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service currently certifies a broad array of popular programs such as Certified Organic and Certified Angus Beef.

This bill appears to be a reasonable labeling compromise because the measure, 1) will give consumers a clear choice regarding GMOs and food, 2) removes labeling schemes that stigmatize foods based on nothing more than the way they were developed, 3) prevents a confusing patchwork of 50-state labeling policies for foods that may contain GMO ingredients, 4) clarifies that non-GMO milk and non-GMO meat must come from animals fed non-biotech feed, 5) allows state departments of agriculture to serve as certifying agents for non-GMO labeling, 6) requires FDA safety approval for new biotech crops prior to USDA approval for commercial use, 7) requires FDA to write definitions for labeling foods as “natural” because no official definitions currently exist, 8) allows state and local governments to ban the cultivation of genetically modified crops within their jurisdiction and, 9) allows farmers to create enhanced markets for consumers who prefer GMO-free food. Both FDA and USDA were involved in drafting the bill.

Confusion and misinformation about GMO food labels are being scrutinized more often these days. The World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have all declared there is no good evidence GMOs are unsafe. The Pew Research Center found 88 percent of scientists said food containing GMO ingredients is generally safe to eat, but only 37 percent of the public shared that view. Unfortunately, some food companies have exploited GMOs as a marketing tool. Fortunately, major media

like the Washington Post’s editorial board are beginning to investigate the divergence between informed opinion and popular anxiety.

National Grange policy has long supported the consumer’s right to know what they are buying. At the same time, National Grange policy opposes mandatory labeling of foods containing GMO ingredients that can be construed as a warning label until such time as credible scientific studies indicate health risks.

House and Senate Differ on Highway Funding

The House has approved \$8 billion to push back bankruptcy of the Highway Trust Fund for five months from July 31 to December 18. In the Senate, Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) and Environment and Public Works Committee ranking member Boxer (D-CA) have reached a bipartisan deal for three years funding. The Senate is expected to vote on the measure before the August recess. The trust fund traditionally finances highway and bridge infrastructure projects with proceeds from the gas tax. A major sticking point between the House and Senate is whether to raise gas taxes necessary to breathe life into the Highway Trust Fund long term or to find other offsets such as customs fees indexed to inflation and selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. After Senate passage, differences between the Senate provisions and House provisions will be resolved in a joint Senate-House conference committee and returned to each body for approval.

Tax Extenders for Two Years or Permanent?

Expired tax provisions critical to agriculture and energy development are getting renewed attention on Capitol Hill. The Senate Finance Committee, with strong bipartisan support, approved a two year extension of expired tax benefits plus indexed them for inflation. Extenders included Section 179 expensing which allows for immediate expense deduction for items such as equipment, 50 percent depreciation deduction allowance, \$1 per gallon biodiesel tax credit, \$1.01 per gallon tax subsidy for cellulosic biofuels, a 30 percent investment tax credit for ethanol blender pumps, wind energy tax credits and more. The House prefers to make these and other extenders permanent linked with a long-term highway bill and perhaps additional tax reform later in the year.

Trade

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) was passed by Congress in June and signed by the President. TPA restores the President’s authority to negotiate trade deals with other governments and submit them to Congress for approval.

Focus now turns to finalizing the twelve-nation Pacific Rim Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Negotiations on TPP have been progressing for several years. Significant progress has been made on the agricultural market access aspects of the agreement. A ministerial meeting aimed at finalizing the trade deal is set for the last week of July but most seasoned trade observers doubt that time line is feasible. Complications have arisen over so-called Japanese “sacred products” policies which include rice and beef as well as Canadian dairy and poultry policies. These differences will likely be resolved in coming months and the package will likely come before Congress later this fall. When TPP is finalized, the National Grange will scrutinize its approval process to be sure United States sovereignty is not being compromised. Sovereignty sensitivity has been heightened as a result of the United Nations (UN) vote to approve the Iran nuclear deal prior to a vote by the U.S. Congress.

Rural Broadband, High Speed Internet and Lifeline Phones

USDA is funding \$74.8 million in telecom loans and \$11 million in community connect grants. According to Secretary Vilsack, “Broadband is fundamental to expanding economic activity and job creation in rural areas, and it is as vital to rural America’s future as electricity was when USDA began bringing power to rural America 80 years ago.” Several communities throughout the country that are currently without high-speed internet service or whose infrastructure needs upgrading will apply these funds to next-generation broadband service. The National Grange is actively engaged in all initiatives whether traditional telephone service, cell phone service, wireless connectivity or the government’s Lifeline program that will better serve isolated and undeserved citizens.

Patent Reform

The House and Senate are currently working through efforts to make legislative updates to the U.S. patent system. Patent laws were created throughout our history to preserve the integrity and proprietary rights of patent holders against infringement. Lengthy and costly litigation has historically plagued the patent industry. Congress attempted to address this problem in 2011 by creating the Inter Partes Review (IPR) proceeding to provide a faster and more cost-effective alternative to litigation. Unfortunately, a number of unintended consequences resulted, and third parties who have no commercial interest in the patent are using this system for financial gain by threatening to force a parent

into IPR proceedings. The National Grange will continue to seek a fair and equitable resolve.

Farmers, Foodies and Family Farms

Farming is “en vogue”. Consumers are demonstrating their enthusiasm for all things “foodie” demanding fresh, local foods, the raw authenticity of farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants and celebrity chefs. Some are even taking their food culture passion a step further and exploring farming as a way of life as a means to positively impact the environment and climate change. Certainly there is a huge disconnect between the Norman Rockwell image of American farming and the reality of what agriculture is today. So we have a new public passion, particularly among millennials, for food and agriculture but that passion is embedded in a caricature of a bygone era. Then add the growing perception that “big is bad” and agriculture is controlled by huge corporate farms. Is there any hope for farmers and foodies to work together? We can start by telling folks that 97% of all U.S. farms are family owned, 88% of all U.S. farms are small family farms, and 18% of principle operators on family farms started their business within the last 10 years.

Most food on the table today have origins with multi-generational farm families who, over the decades, have grown their business in the spirit of the American dream. While they share the Rockwell heritage, they may look more like what’s been coined “big ag”.

Most leading-edge family farmers are among the most sustainable stewards of the land, employing continuous improvement strategies to enhance the environment, save the soil, conserve water and treat animals humanely.

The Farmers and Ranchers Alliance has focused on some trust-building initiatives for those of us in production agriculture to remember when we’re dealing with our “public” which could include our friends and neighbors. These are worth noting:

Get engaged in the narrative stakeholders are having around you

Be transparent and build on shared values

Listen, acknowledge and respect public concerns; don’t be defensive

Demonstrate best practices already in place as well as your commitment to continuous improvement

Share what’s not possible and why

Commit to a long term conversation

The end game is earning and sustaining trust and building relationships that cross both the consumer and political market place.

Camp Maud Isbell Berger

Camp Berger is in Session...running 7 weeks this summer through August 15th. Announcing 2015 Camp Berger's NEW Telephone Number: 860-238-7949.

And can you do a SAVE THE DATE...Camp Berger FALL Clean Up Weekend Saturday, Oct. 24th & Sunday, Oct. 25th at 10 am - 5 pm please come help...bring gloves and rakes, leaf blowers, tarps, etc. Please bring your own lunch - water and snacks will be provided.

STAY TUNED Saturday, Oct. 24th Camp Berger 60th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser...Barn Dance & Farm-to-Fork Supper...tickets \$25/person. ALL are Welcome! Proceeds will go towards - Program Wish List, Maintenance & Camperships. If you can't join us Donations are Welcome! Please mail checks made out to: Camp Berger, P.O. Box 181, Winchester Center, CT 06094 in the memo line note "Camp Berger 60th Celebration".

Some scenes from the first sessions this year...



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In Memoriam

Russel Hibbard	Senexet #40
Pamela Smith	Senexet #40
Joanne Klingerman	Whigville #48
Patricia Conger	Vernon #52
Robert West	Vernon #52
Edwin Benjamin, Sr., G.S.	Ekonk #89
Antoine Basette	Preston City #110
Harolven Spenser, G.S.	Higganum #124
Inga Britt Engelbrektson	Bridgewater #153
Elinor Hurlbut	Bridgewater #153
Ethel Larkin	Echo #180

**Most of these members passed during the preceding four months as reported in each Grange's Quarterly Report.*

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

The psalmist says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." We need to remember this when things are going wrong. And, as we all know, things don't always go right. Troubles come in many forms, sometimes personal and sometimes all too impersonal. God never promised us that we would live trouble-free lives. In fact, in the 16th chapter of John's Gospel Jesus tells us clearly that "In this world you will have trouble". But He did promise us that he would be there when we needed him.

There are some people who have the mistaken idea that God will only help you if you are deserving of help. Or that we need to prove to God that we are worthy. They may quote an old proverb, which is definitely NOT in the Bible that "God helps those who help themselves". This saying is actually derived from an old Greek adage: "the gods help those who help themselves" And Sophocles, in one of his plays, says "heaven ne'er helps the men who will not act.". However, the thought behind this is directly contradicted by the Bible which tells us that God helps the helpless.

Of course it is possible to take dependence on God to extremes. We need to make it easier for God to help us and not to fight or ignore His help when it is available. And we need to stay alert to recognize when His help is being offered. One of my favorite stories about God's offer of help goes something like this:

A terrible storm came into a town and local officials sent out an emergency warning that the riverbanks would soon overflow and flood the nearby homes. They ordered everyone in the town to evacuate immediately.

A faithful Christian man heard the warning and decided to stay, saying to himself, "I will trust God and if I am in danger, then God will send a divine miracle to save me."

The neighbors came by his house and said to him, "We're leaving and there is room for you in our car, please come with us!" But the man declined. "I have faith that God will save me."

As the man stood on his porch watching the water rise up the steps, a man in a canoe paddled by and called to him, "Hurry and come into my canoe, the waters are rising quickly!" But the man again said, "No thanks, God will save me."

The floodwaters rose higher pouring water into his living room and the man had to retreat to the second floor. A police motorboat came by and saw him at the window. "We will come up and rescue you!" they shouted. But the man refused, waving them off saying, "Use your time to save someone else! I have faith that God will save me!"

The flood waters rose higher and higher and the man had to climb up to his rooftop.

A helicopter spotted him and dropped a rope ladder. A rescue officer came down the ladder and pleaded with the man, "Grab my hand and I will pull you up!" But the man STILL refused, folding his arms tightly to his body. "No thank you! God will save me!"

Shortly after, the house broke up and the floodwaters swept the man away and he drowned.

When in Heaven, the man stood before God and asked, "I put all of my faith in You. Why didn't You come and save me?"

And God said, "Son, I sent you a warning. I sent you a car. I sent you a canoe. I sent you a motorboat. I sent you a helicopter. What more were you looking for?"