

The official publication of the NC Grange

May / June 2021

GRANGE NEWS

Happy Summer!



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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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Steward	Jimmy Martin
Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	VACANT
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Philip Duncan
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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Membership Director	Katie Greene
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Sharon Underwood
Publications Director	Jessica Horton



Remember to continue collecting new and gently used baby items for Baby Bundles, our 2020 / 2021 State Community Service Project!

- Children's Clothing sized newborn to 12 months: onesies, sleepers and outfits (outfit sets need to be pinned together)
- Blankets
- Board Books
- Developmental Toys, Rattles, Teethers
- Socks, Hats
- Bibs & Burp Clothes

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4-10	Grange Camp
September 9-12	State Convention

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

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A NOTE FROM JIMMY: LEGISLATION

It is the time of year for legislative activity with both the General Assembly and Congress being in session. Laurie Barnhart does a great job of keeping you informed about the latest in government affairs through the weekly bulletin that she sends out. In this article, I am not going to focus on any individual piece of legislation. Instead, I want to share with you the importance of our involvement.

The Grange operates from the premise that when people join the organization, they have a legislative voice. We try very hard to fulfill this charge. We have three registered lobbyists with Laurie doing most of the work. Jeff Barnhart also helps us on a voluntary basis, and he is quite good with helping us with strategy. I am also registered so that I can help as needed.

The fact that we have lobbyists working on your behalf is important. Of equal importance is local Grange participation in the legislative process. State and Federal legislators need to hear from individuals in their local districts, and local Granges can fill this role. Also needed is Grange involvement in local government, especially with school board and county commissioner issues. All of us have had issues to arise in our counties that we felt quite passionate about. The local Grange can provide a united voice on those types of issues.

The State Grange staff stands ready to assist you as needed with local, state, or federal issues. All you need to do is ask. Along these lines, it is time to be writing resolutions for submission at State Convention. Your resolutions should be thoroughly considered and well-written. We look forward to having an increased number of resolutions to consider for our convention in September.

In Memoriam

<i>Lucille Baker</i>	<i>Beaufort County Grange</i>
<i>James Edwards</i>	<i>Beaufort County Grange</i>
<i>Moye Woolard</i>	<i>Beaufort County Grange</i>
<i>Harry Massey</i>	<i>Brogden Grange</i>
<i>Raymond Edwards</i>	<i>Brogden Grange</i>
<i>James Tadlock</i>	<i>Graham Grange</i>
<i>Frances Edwards*</i>	<i>Westbrook Grange</i>
<i>Eva Kennedy</i>	<i>Scheule Grange</i>
<i>Kathryn Whisnant</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>

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

Psalm 118:28
** 50 Year Member*



THE NEWS & OBSERVER

newsobserver.com

ROB CHRISTENSEN

by:LaurieBarnhart

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRANCHHEAD BOYS photos provided by Rob Christensen

At the NC State Grange Annual Convention in September we will have the pleasure of having Rob Christensen speak at the breakfast on Saturday morning on his latest book, *The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys*. Mr. Christensen was the chief political writer and columnist for the *News and Observer* for 45 years. I am sure many of you read Mr. Christensen's columns from time to time. He appeared as an analyst on more than 600 TV and radio programs including the *CBS Evening News*, ABC's *Nightline*, CNN's *Inside Politics*, MSNBC's *Hardball* with Chris Matthew, Fox News' *Happening Now*, NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, *Morning Edition* and the *Diane Rehm's Show*. His first book, published by UNC Press in 2008, *The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics*, was judged the best work of nonfiction in the state that year by the Literary and History Society of North Carolina.

When he retired in 2018, Christensen told The News & Observer, "I have stumped with candidates in country stores, church campgrounds, and in sweet smelling tobacco warehouses. I have climbed in and out of suspiciously small campaign airplanes in questionable weather. I have watched shift changes at cigarette factories in Durham and textile mills in Kannapolis. I have enjoyed the joyous music in African-American churches and I have eaten a lot of barbecue — a lot."

The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys is the story of the change that came about in North Carolina politics during the Scott reign. Most North Carolinians are familiar with this family. In fact, Kerr Scott and Bob Scott both served as NC State Grange Presidents. In his book Christensen brings to life three generations of Scotts - Kerr Scott, Robert Scott, and Meg Scott Phipps—who all held statewide offices during the

period they governed and served North Carolina. "Despite stereotypes about rural white southerners, the Scotts led a populist and progressive movement strongly supported by rural North Carolinians—the so-called Branchhead Boys, were the rural grassroots voters who lived at the heads of tributaries throughout the heart of North Carolina."

Though the Scotts held power in various government positions in North Carolina for generations, they were instrumental in their own downfall. From Kerr Scott's regression into reactionary race politics to Meg Scott Phipps's corruption trial and subsequent prison sentence, the Scott family lost favor in their home state, their influence dimming and their legacy in question.

Weaving together interviews from dozens of political luminaries and deep archival research, Christensen offers an engaging and definitive historical account of not only the Scott family's legacy but also how race and populism informed North Carolina politics during the twentieth century. As Tom Eamon, author of *The Making of a Southern Democracy* so eloquently says, "Rob Christensen captures the spirit of the times in this captivating history of the Scott family. Anyone wanting to understand North Carolina politics and history should read this book."

I hope everyone attending our State Convention this year will be as excited as I am to hear Mr. Christensen's talk. I for one will be first in line to receive a signed copy of *The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys*!

Excerpts from the University of North Carolina Press



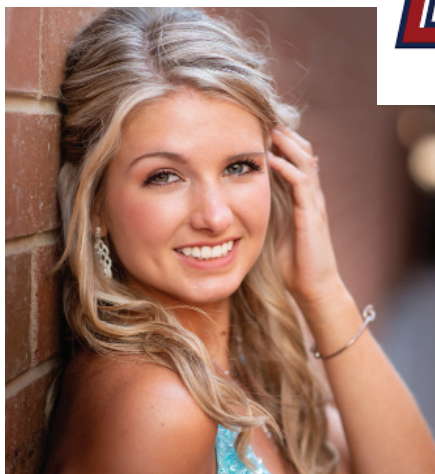


Jonas Greene

Grange : Corriher
High School : South Rowan High School
College : Catawba College
Major : Environment & Sustainability
Minor : Secondary Education

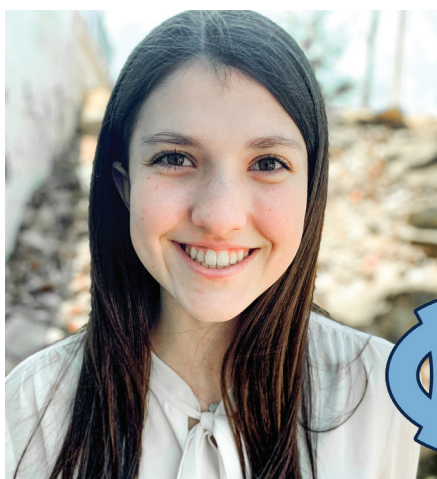
Abigail Gentry

Grange : Bushy Fork
High School : Person High School
College : Liberty University
Major : Psychology



Asheton Medlin

Grange : Bushy Fork
High School : Person High School
College : UNC-Chapel Hill
Major : Biology to attend Vet School



Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

NC GRANGE TO SPONSOR CENTURY FARM PROGRAM by: Jimmy Gentry

A few months ago, Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler contacted Jimmy Gentry to ask if NC Grange would consider sponsoring the NC Century Farm Program. The State Grange Board has provided approval, and the organization will be the sole sponsor of this program for 2021. The Century Farm Program recognizes farms in North Carolina that have been in existence within the same family for at least one-hundred years. Gentry states, "This is a great way for NC Grange to continue our support for farms in this state. We are excited to be part of this recognition program."

During the State Fair in October, 2021, a ceremony will be held to induct the new farms that have been designated as a Century Farm. The program began in 1970, and there have been more than 1800 farms have gained this honor.



Infrastructure Debates Continue

Since President Biden announced his American Jobs Plan and American Family Plan in April, two large spending bills meant to address issues ranging from traditional infrastructure to child poverty, Washington has been gripped by public and private discussions of the packages. In recent weeks, the White House has hosted meetings with Republicans looking to craft a bipartisan compromise, progressive Democrats have pushed for increased funding for their priorities, and the timeline and method the bill will be passed has changed multiple times.

From the beginning, President Biden and moderate Democratic Senators such as Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) have publicly indicated that he would like for both of these plans, particularly the American Jobs Plan which focuses on infrastructure, to be passed in a bipartisan manner. As a result, over the past month President Biden has hosted discussions with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and a group of Republican Senators led by the Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

At the onset of the negotiations, Capito proposed an \$568 billion infrastructure package focused on hard infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways which would be funded by repurposing money allocated to fight COVID-19 and increased user fees. The Biden administration indicated that this proposal was a nonstarter for its failure to address key issues such as green infrastructure, affordable housing, and eldercare. As well, Republicans have indicated that they do not support any of the Democrats proposed tax provisions, particularly those which would change the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

At the same time, President Biden is under constant pressure from members of his own party to not compromise on his plan, and in fact to go even farther than he has proposed, making a bipartisan compromise appear unlikely. Nevertheless, negotiations continue and Capito is likely to make another counteroffer soon, along with a new proposal being drafted by a small bipartisan group of Senators.

Another important change in recent weeks has come with regard to the timeline for the bill. Originally, Democrats had made clear behind closed doors that they intended to pass the bill by September so as to pass it during the 2021 fiscal year. However, with a recent rules change allowing for the Democrats to pass multiple bills through the reconciliation process (a process which allows them to pass bills in the Senate with a simple majority vote) and internal party divisions over the bill not yet resolved, this timeline is likely to be pushed later into the fall of this year.

Other Priorities Making Progress

While infrastructure debates have dominated the past month, Democrats have moved other key bills forward before the Memorial Day recess. Significant progress has been made in recent weeks on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-NY) Endless Frontiers Act, a bipartisan bill which will fund research and development and create new policy tools to address US competition with China. The bill is currently undergoing a bipartisan amendment process in the Senate, and Schumer intends to pass the bill before the end of May. Leaders in the House and Senate have also indicated progress on a bipartisan policing reform bill being negotiated by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Senator Tim Scott (D-SC).

Agriculture & Food

Grange Supports America Grows Act

The National Grange joined over a hundred agriculture, food, forestry, consumer and university groups in expressing support for the American Grows Act of 2021 (S.1371) championed by Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Moran (R-KS). The bill would significantly increase the nation's investment in agriculture research and development. The Grange also encouraged the leadership of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees to include agriculture research infrastructure investment in new initiatives moving through Congress to support the rural and agricultural economy.

USDA To Begin Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Payments

With funds authorized by the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March, Native American/Alaskan, Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander borrowers who have USDA loans that no longer have collateral are eligible to receive payments at 120% of their indebtedness. Secretary Vilsack says the debt relief payments will begin in June.

USDA Sets Strategy for "Climate-Smart" Ag and Forestry

The blueprint lays out broad goals but provides no specific policy proposals. Strategy includes paying farmers and ranchers for the wider use of existing conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Conservation Reserve Program.



Environment & Climate Change

Climate Alliance Recommends Pilot Projects

The Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (National Grange is a member) worked the past three months to develop specific recommendations for how USDA should approach a potential carbon bank. These recommendations have been shared with USDA and Congress. If the Administration considers a voluntary, USDA-led carbon bank, USDA should first develop a series of pilot projects that would focus on four areas:

- Pilot projects should help increase adoption of climate-smart practices and provide infrastructure to increase the capacity of farmers, ranchers and forest owners to adapt to climate change while ensuring food and economic security.
- Pilot projects should encourage widespread adoption of climate-smart practices by making it easier for producers and landowners to adopt these practices
- USDA should develop consistent and credible criteria to account for carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction and determine how to verify the climate benefits delivered by specific practices and management approaches
- Pilot projects must provide equitable opportunities for small-scale, minority and socially disadvantaged producers.

Boost Conservation Funding

Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) says the American Jobs Plan is inadequate to fund climate-friendly farming practices. She says, "I am working to get significant resources in there to fund conservation."

Heath Care

Senators Call for Telehealth Permanency

A bipartisan group of 30 senators led by Schatz (D-HI) and Wicker (R-MS) are calling for the expansion of access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic to be made permanent. This would assure patient care is not interrupted when the pandemic ends and provide certainty to health care providers that use of telehealth is a sound long-term investment. The National Grange is supportive of this initiative.

Seniors Immunization

The National Grange joined seniors patient groups to advocate for Medicare Part D to reimburse seniors for a broader range of immunizations. In a letter to House and Senate leadership, the group said that Part D immunizations (shingles, tetanus, diphtheria, Tdap) should be available at no cost to the beneficiary as they are under Medicare Part B (COVID-19, flu, pneumonia).

COVID Relief for India

America's biopharmaceutical companies are providing much needed support to India's COVID battle. They are delivering therapeutics and vaccines, building capacity with Indian manufacturers, entering into licensing agreements, and collaborating with global health authorities.

White House to Focus on Rural Vaccination

The Biden administration will allocate more resources to rural communities in an effort to increase vaccination rates. Vaccines will be sent directly to rural health clinics and \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funding will be provided to 4,600 clinics and hospitals to use for vaccine outreach in rural communities. Another \$130 million will target organizations with a history of supporting rural communities, racial and ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities for educational materials, toolkits about the vaccine, improving vaccination availability, and having trusted figures encourage residents to get vaccinated.

Taxes

Protect Sound Tax policy

The Tax Aggie Coalition sent a letter signed by the National Grange and 40 national and regional agriculture organizations to House and Senate leadership to express significant concerns with proposals that would jeopardize the future of family-owned farm, ranch and timber businesses. As Congress struggles to pay for trillions of dollars in stimulus and relief aid, three critically important tax provisions were highlighted to preserve:

- Stepped-Up Basis – Resetting the basis of the value of land, buildings and livestock on the date of the owner's death to ensure family members survive the tax liability and have future financial stability in the operation.
- Like-Kind Exchanges – This allows businesses to buy and sell like assets without tax consequences
- Section 199A Business Income Deduction – The qualified business income deduction is necessary in order to maintain a reasonable level of taxation for businesses like farms and ranches.



Business Groups Deliver Stepped Up Basis Study

The National Grange and 111 other members of the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition have called upon the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees (tax writing committees of Congress) to continue the stepped-up basis. The coalition also delivered a study by EY that illustrates the economic damage that step-up repeal via tax at death would inflict. Repealing stepped-up basis by imposing capital gains taxes when assets transfer ownership at death would force many family-owned businesses to sell assets to cover the tax burden. The new tax would be imposed on top of any existing estate tax liability, further compounding the negative impacts and creating a second tax at death.

Rural Democrats Weigh In

Nine Democratic members of the House Agriculture Committee are urging House leadership to fully exempt family-owned farms from President Biden's tax plan. "The repeal of stepped-up basis for capital gains and immediate taxation could especially hurt family farms, some of which have been in families for generations; therefore, we strongly urge you to provide full exemption for these family farms and small businesses that are critical to our communities," the lawmakers said.

Telecommunications

Target Rural Digital Opportunity Funds

The Federal Communications Commission has called the RDOF its single biggest step to close the digital divide. The National Grange recently petitioned the FCC to assure RDOF funds are targeted to residents without internet service and those with outdated slow internet speeds. Recently released information from the Competitive Carriers Association (CCA) indicates some RDOF funds could subsidize construction and operation of broadband facilities in areas that already have at least 25/3 Mbps service.

CAPITOL NEWS

by : Laurie Barnhart

The NC General Assembly passed the bill crossover date on May 13. As a reminder, crossover is the deadline for all bills, excluding appropriation bills, to be passed by the originating chamber and sent over to the opposite chamber in order to be viable. Crossover is an effort to cull down the number of bills that will be eligible for consideration during the remainder of the legislative session. Bills with a finance/appropriation related provision however are not subject to crossover. It is always a hectic and stressful time during crossover week for members, staff and lobbyists. 969 Bills were filed in the House and 721 were filed in the Senate this session totally 1,690.

Budget negotiations have continued to stall between the House and Senate leadership as the two chambers struggle to agree on a spending target. The Senate wants to increase spending by approximately 2.5%, a calculation which is based on a combination of population growth and inflation. The House would like to spend around 5%. House appropriations chairs have moved ahead with their own budget this week (June 1st) in spite of the Senate not sending their version over to the House. Traditionally, each chamber takes a turn beginning the budget process. At this time, it is unsure of how this process will play out, only time will tell. Recent history does tell us that the failure of negotiations between the House and Senate will in all likelihood lead to delay. The last time the House and Senate had a considerable disagreement over

the spending target was in 2015 when the two chambers could not agree on a spending increase. Consequently both chambers introduced competing budget proposals which was nearly \$700 million dollars apart. As a consequence, the budget was enacted three months late. This was during the McCrory administration. If the two chambers can come to an agreement in the coming months, they will have to garner Democratic support to avoid a veto from Governor Cooper, or at the very least enough votes to override a veto. As of yet, Governor Cooper has never signed a budget passed by the Republican lead legislature. (Excerpts from Connect C)

The North Carolina Farm Act of 2021 (SB 6905) made crossover and now awaits approval in the House. The Farm Act is always of interest and importance to the NC State Grange. Highlights are below, courtesy of **JDSUPRA**.

North Carolina Farm Act of 2021

Most of the bill's thirteen sections are noncontroversial statutory changes to advance the interests of agricultural entities, including:

- Section 1 would clarify requirements for a localities' ordinances on voluntary agricultural districts. Local governments would be allowed to grant agricultural advisory boards the authority to execute agreements with landowners necessary for the enrollment of land in an agricultural district.
- Section 2 would allow magistrates to waive a trial or hearing for a misdemeanor involving certain minor offenses committed on State parks and forests.
- Section 3 would exempt, in most cases, fires for cooking, warming and ceremonial events from open burning laws, as



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FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

by Robert Cayton

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina State Grange in our winter meeting re-elected me as chair and I thank them for their trust and support. Also, I would like to thank the North Carolina State Grange for electing me to the Board of Directors. It is a high honor and a humbling experience to serve this great organization and you.

Many in the Grange are worried about the state of affairs in our nation. There are two matters we must keep in mind. 1." We have nothing to fear but fear itself". 2. This nation is not a democracy and has never been a democracy. The United States is a constitutional Republic made up of 50 constitutional Republics. The states give up some power and with holds power to themselves. For example, laws concerning education and voting are held only by the individual states not the federal government. The only exception is if any matter the state violates the amendments of the federal constitution or the body of said document.

May we remember this statement by Winston Churchill. "Kites rise highest against the wind not with it."

NC FARM TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

by Winnie Duncan

On Wednesday, at 1 pm, a Zoom mtg was held to recognize the winners of the 2021-2022 NC Farm to School Calendar Art Contest. This is the 11th year for this contest; they had 2100+ entries. Entries were accepted online this year, and according to Heather Barnes, NCDA, the process went very well.

On the Zoom mtg, there were the student winners, their teachers, their families, sometimes their classroom, and school nutritionists. Laurie Barnhart addressed the group re: art and agriculture and how the Grange is proud to be a sponsor for this Calendar. The Grange provides funding for the printing of this publication.

This year's winners represented 9 counties: Brunswick, Craven, Durham, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Nash, Pitt, Wake and Wilson. The cover entry is attached to this email and was used as part of the virtual invitation. Heather will provide calendars at the convention for folks to use in their Grange and to publicize next year's contest.

NC FARM TO SCHOOL Calendar Art Contest



COMMUNITY SERVICE

by : Sharon Underwood

The sun is shining, there are colorful flowers blooming and the Covid 19 vaccine is helping our country get back to a more normal lifestyle. HALLELUJAH! I know we are all so grateful for these changes and look forward to even more progress. Our Grange goals include helping family members learn about community values, service, citizenship, and leadership. What goals have your Grange set to meet this list?

Over the past year and a half, some of our most challenged neighbors have been our school staff, especially teachers and of course, students. Talk to teachers and listen to their stories about trying to teach classes online and the efforts they have made to educate students remotely. It has been extremely difficult to say the least! Many have said tearfully that this has been the hardest year of their careers. If your Grange could do something to thank them, it would offer much needed encouragement for these hard working, dedicated, underpaid and under-appreciated educators. There are so many ideas on how to let them know care and appreciate their efforts to teach our children, our future leaders. Please email me your ideas and let me know what you Grange has done to support teachers so that we can inspire and motivate others to get involved. Ferguston Grange hosted ice cream socials, has given them plants and flower seeds, has helped make a raised bed garden, has sponsored fundraiser and has invited them to our Grange events.

Baby Bundles continues to be our NC State Grange community service project for 2020 and 2021 as we collect items to donate to this valuable program. Their representative will accept all donated items or checks at the State meeting and they are thankful for our help. Please keep gathering items for this worthy cause. If there are questions, check their website at babybundesnc.org or email me. Recently, I found a darling, handmade baby blanket at a yard sale that was in perfect condition. I spent a \$1 and carefully washed it and it is now ready to be donated to Baby Bundles. They do accept handmade items, purchased and gently used and clean items. Thank you for supporting this project and enjoy a healthy, happy summer!



CORRIHER HOMECOMING byKatieGreene

Approximately 75 members and visitors met on the grounds of Corriher Grange, Saturday, May 1 at 6 pm for a Homecoming Reunion – our first meeting of 2021!

John Karriker, President, welcomed everyone to the event and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A catered meal was enjoyed by all. Vinnie Duncan, Program Director, gave devotions on “Timing” based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.

Corriher’s nominations for State Grange contests were announced: Church of the Year – West Corinth Baptist; Fire Department of the Year - Atwell Township Volunteer Fire Department; Firefighter of the Year – Frank Greene; Educator of the Year – Dora Greene; Granger of the Year – Kenneth Corriher; Farm of the Year – Barnhart Farms; and Family of the Year – Lonnie and Julie Hoffner Family.

Jimmy Freeze and band provided the music as the evening sun began to set. Everyone enjoyed singing along with the bluegrass and gospel tunes, and closing the evening with “Will the Circle be Unbroken”.



A schedule of events for the remainder of 2021 was distributed. Tranquility Farm, Crystal and David Allen, owners, will participate in the Rowan Ag & Arts Tour on Saturday, June 5. Corriher Grange members will sell hot dogs and Corriher Grange cookbooks at the event. The annual Ice Cream Social will be held on August 7. Plans are being finalized for a November 6 Brunswick Stew fundraiser.

IT ONLY TAKES ONE byJoyceHood

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Grantham Grange has only been able to have a couple of meeting outside. At a recent meeting held at the Grantham Fire Department, Grangers met, socially distanced. The focus of the meeting was an upcoming fundraiser, the 4th Annual Ride as One to benefit the NC Troopers Association Caisson Unit, which was scheduled for April 3. At the meeting, Jean Hollowell, Grantham member, purchased ONE single raffle ticket from fellow member, Mark Hood for a chance to win a 2021 Ford Mustang, along with a few other prizes. When Mark took the ticket to her home, he asked Jean “Where do you want me to park your new car when you win it?” She responded, “I’ll just pull my truck out and you can park it there.” Jean in fact did end up winning the car, and thought it was an April Fools joke when contacted!

The Caisson Unit and the horses that pull it, are kept on the property of Grange members, Highway Patrolman Bennie Grady and his wife Pamela. The unit deploys to work funeral services of fallen service men and women.



CAPE FEAR & OPERATION INASMUCH

byKenPlummer

The Cape Fear Grange has enjoyed a long relationship supporting Operation Inasmuch, a local Fayetteville organization that provides meals and other services (mail service, haircuts, laundry, continuing education, etc.) to the local homeless population. Over the last several months they have worked to make vaccinations available for the bulk of their family. This has resulted in additional demand for their food services as their operations have begun to return to pre-Covid levels. Based on this, Cape Fear Grange obtained a list of the critically needed supplies, and various members of our group donated the items to meet these needs. We look forward to continuing to support the services of Operation Inasmuch in our community.

Below: Craig Morrison, Executive Director of Operation Inasmuch accepts supplies from Lois Plummer of the Cape Fear Grange



Left to right: Bennie Grady, John Crawford, Jean Hollowell & Mark Hood

long as the fire is confined to an enclosed area.

- Section 4 would permit the Department of Agriculture to provide compensatory leave to employees of the NC Forest Service who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Section 5 would strengthen the penalties against someone who knowingly and willfully cuts down another person's trees.
- Section 6 brings timber sales in line with federal policy by requiring timber operators to provide a wood load ticket to a timber grower or seller.
- Section 7 would expand the laws enforced by the Department of Agriculture.
- Section 8 would require electronic records be made available to the Commissioner of Agriculture regarding tonnage statements for the sale of liming materials, seeds, animal feed and commercial fertilizers.
- Section 9 would increase the amount that the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission can spend each fiscal year on operating expenses. The Fund was created by the legislature as a way to assist current and former tobacco farmers and individuals displaced from tobacco-related employment.
- Section 10 would clarify the definition of "agriculture" in the state's worker's compensation statutes.
- Section 11 would create a general permit for biodigesters on hog farms and allow farmers to begin projects without enduring lengthy reviews or public hearings. Supporters of the biogas projects say they limit the emissions of potent greenhouse gases, but opponents argue the biogas projects could lead to air and water contamination.
- Section 12 would limit driver's licenses for H-2A farm workers, who are nonimmigrant foreign nationals who fill temporary agricultural jobs, to three years.
- Section 13 would affect workers who file complaints against employers under the Retaliatory Employment Discrimination Act (REDA). As amended by the bill's author Sen. Brent Jackson (R-Sampson) during Tuesday's Senate session, this section requires the Commissioner of Labor to issue a right-to-sue letter to the complaining party in the event that the Commissioner concluded there is not reasonable cause to believe the allegation is true. The amendment also would allow the right-to-sue letter to be used as evidence in a subsequent hearing.

The NC State Grange is following bills that have appropriations so they are not subject to crossover those bills are as follow:

HB 59 (SB 67)	Food Commercialization Funds
HB 216	NC A&T State University/Ag/Doctoral Funds
HB 372	Restore Funding/State Conservation Purposes
HB 431	Funds for Soil/Water Conservation Programs
SB 602	Flood Resiliency and Prevention Act
SB 434	Funds for Caisson Unit
SB 321	Amend NC Controlled Substances Act

REMINDER

All resolutions are due by July 12!

2021 STATE CONVENTION

Plans for the 2021 State Convention are underway! This year the schedule will be altered a bit from years past, and we hope you will enjoy the changes. All committee meetings will take place via Zoom prior to convention. Registration is now live at ncgrange.com. We hope to see you all at the University Hilton in Charlotte this September!

Thursday

4PM Registration opens

Friday

Breakfast on your own

8AM Registration opens

830AM Convention Opens

915AM Board Bus for Bill Graham Library

12PM Lunch at hotel with Bennie Grady

2PM Award Ceremony and presentation to Paula

Foust from Baby Bundles

2-5PM Contest Entries Accepted

5PM 6th Degree Practice

730PM Live Auction

Saturday

730AM Breakfast with Rob Christianson

9AM Youth Open Session

10AM-12PM - Youth activity

12PM Youth Awards Lunch & Talent Show

2PM Youth Pool Party

2PM-4PM Contest Judging

2PM Business & Officer Elections

3PM Officer Installation

430PM 5th & 6th Degree Conferral

630PM BBQ & Dancing

Sunday

Worship & Memorial





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ncgrange.com

address service requested

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

