

The official publication of the NC Grange

January / February 2020

GRANGE NEWS



Patterson Farm

2019 Farm of the Year

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7-9	Winter Youth Conference Asheboro, NC
March 13-15	Family Conference Nags Head, NC
April	Grange Month!
July 5-11	Grange Camp Columbia, NC

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.

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

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





A NOTE FROM JIMMY: GOOD SERVICE

Part of my job in working for the Grange is attending a lot of meetings. Some of these meetings are within the organization; however many of these meetings are with other associations with which we are involved. Today it is Dairy. Before the week is out it will be 4-H and Feed the Dialog. Last week it was Soil & Water. Other times the meetings may be associated with tobacco, FFA, various coalitions, agricultural universities, Department of Agriculture, as well as others. Even though the various groups have different purposes, they all have one thing in common. They all want to succeed!

Within the leadership culture of each group is the desire for their organization to be strong and able to serve their stakeholders well. To succeed, they have to plan well, be financially sound, have capable people, communicate well, and focus heavily upon the tasks at hand. Their mission is always to provide good service. Good service not only applies to business. It applies to any organization with a mission of making a difference for others.

In my community, there is a fast-food restaurant that serves food that I really like. Unfortunately, I have begun to avoid

this restaurant because the service is terrible. I suspect the bad service is caused by two things, inadequate leadership and less than capable employees. I further suspect that they are finding it difficult to keep employees. As a result, they are losing business.

Our Granges are no different. I believe that all of our Granges want to find success. To do so requires planning, sound finances, eager members, good communication, and strong leadership. Perhaps a question that you should ask yourselves should be, "Is my Grange providing good service and making a positive difference to the community?" The answer to this question may help to guide you in your planning efforts.

This week I sent a letter to each local President asking for them to schedule me for one of their Grange meetings to conduct an activity that I am calling "Listening Sessions." I will take about 30 minutes of your time to learn more about your Grange and what your needs may be. Hopefully this activity will help the State Grange to provide better service for local Granges in the years ahead. I look forward to the visits.



PATTERSON FARM - A FARM FOR ALL SEASONS

story by: Laurie Barnhart photos by: Jessica Horton

There are many things that say “Christmas,” and poinsettias are high on the list. When I called Randall Patterson in November to make an appointment to visit him, I had no idea that Patterson Farm grew 15,000 poinsettias annually. With Christmas right around the corner, the Pattersons were just a little occupied! Harvesting season truly never ends for this busy family. They deliver poinsettias to businesses, churches, schools and florists. However, poinsettias are only the tip of the iceberg of all that the Pattersons grow on their farm. Not only are they farmers, they are strong and active leaders in their community. The Pattersons model what a “farm family” truly is, and they exemplify exactly what the NC Grange looks for in our Farm of the Year recipient.

Patterson Farm is owned and managed by Randall and Doug Patterson, their wives Nora and Michelle, and Randall and Nora’s son Taylor. Taylor makes the Pattersons fourth generation farmers. They are a family that is strongly dedicated to farming and to serving their community.

Randall Patterson returned to the family farm in 1982 after graduating from NCSU with a BS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He helped implement new procedures on their farm known as “plastic culture” which was developed by NCSU. This practice involves growing crops on raised beds covered with black plastic using drip irrigation. Randall is responsible for the farm’s field operations which

includes planning the planting and harvesting schedules. He also has many responsibilities outside of the farm. Randall currently serves as President of the NC Tomato Growers Association and is a member of Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler’s “Inner Circle.” He serves as a Deacon at Thyatira Presbyterian Church after serving as Chairman for many years. Randall was also instrumental in the renovation of the church sanctuary and education building. In addition, he is a member of the NC Farm Bureau, the NC Strawberry Association and the Millbridge Ruritan Club. He has also served as president and board member of these organizations. He joined Patterson Grange in April of 2019.

Nora Patterson retired in 1999 from her nursing career to work with the family business. She handles insurance, safety training, compliance, the workers’ compensation, and general assistance in the office. Like Randall, Nora has been very active at their church which includes chairing the Education Committee and teaching Sunday School. She has served as youth



a leader and advisor for many years and also served as a Session Member. She is a member of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, the NC Nurses Association, the Faith Community Nursing Program at Atrium Medical Center, past “Price of Freedom Museum” volunteer and past member of the South Rowan YMCA Board. Nora joined Patterson Grange in April of 2019.

Taylor joined the family business after receiving his degree from NCSU in Plant and Soil Science with a concentration in Crop Production. Taylor’s responsibilities include crop protection applications and assisting with all crop productions in the fields. Taylor also serves as Patterson Farm’s Sustainable Agriculture Operations Manager.

Randall and Nora’s daughter, Madisyn, graduated from UNCW in 2017 and is now furthering her education at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. Madisyn helps on the farm during breaks and summer vacations.

In 1994, Doug and Michelle Patterson moved back to China Grove to help with the family business. Doug, also a Wolfpacker, graduated from NCSU in 1987 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked in this particular field for six years. Doug now oversees the office, sales, and food safety, and manages the packing house operations. He has been a member of Patterson Grange since 2004. Outside of work, Doug serves as Treasurer of Millbridge Ruritan Club, Treasurer and Elder for Thyatira Presbyterian Church, President of the Rowan County Farm Bureau Board, State Director of NC Farm Bureau, and member of the NC GAPS Advisory Board and the Food Safety Task Force. He also serves on the advisory committee for the American Farm Bureau Labor Issues and is the NC Farm Bureau Resolutions Chairman.

Michelle is responsible for the farm’s marketing. She also oversees Patterson Farm Market and Tours, Inc. and manages the farm’s educational tours and events. Outside of her work on the farm, Michelle is a member of Patterson Grange, the Rowan County United Way Board, the NC Farm Bureau Agritourism Advisory Board, the Rowan County

Tourism Development Authority Destination Development Committee, the Rowan Novant Hospital Board, and the West Rowan High School FFA Alumni Association Board. She is also Regional Director for the NC Agritourism Networking Association.

Doug and Michelle have three daughters, Claudia, Victoria and Chloe, who all currently attend NCSU. During the summers and on weekends, the girls help in the packing house or the market. As you have probably realized, they are very much a “Wolfpack” family!

In addition to growing poinsettias in a variety of sizes and colors, Patterson Farm produces 55 acres of strawberries, 220 acres of tomatoes, 160 acres of peppers, 60 acres of cucumbers, 20 acres of yellow squash, 20 acres of zucchini squash and 15 acres of pumpkins. On their farm, the Pattersons have what they refer to as their “market building” where they sell produce, ice cream, jams and jellies to customers. It is also used as the main location for agritourism and school tour activities.



Patterson Farm has received various important honors. They received the Double Gold Star Award that is given by the NC Department of Labor for their work in maintaining and leading the H2A industry in employee housing. The farm also received the Rowan Chamber

of Commerce “Small Business of the Year” Award, the Certificate of Safety Achievement: Second Year Gold (also awarded by the NC Department of Labor), and they are Primus Food Safety Certified.

Patterson Farm uses technology and growing practices that help minimize the use of crop protection chemicals and pesticide products as much as possible. Their electrostatic sprayers use copper ions to assist the chemicals adhering to the plants. This allows less pesticide and water usage of each application. These practices include growing berries and other crops on raised beds as well as using drip irrigation. Drip irrigation and plastic beds reduce the amount of water required by only applying it where needed under the plastic and at the plants’ roots. LED lighting has been added to their packing house, greenhouses and migrant housing to

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CAPITOL NEWS

by: *Larrie Barnhart*

The North Carolina General Assembly reconvened at noon on January 14, 2020, but only briefly. After possibly being the longest “long” session on record, both the House and the Senate adjourned the same day, and will convene for short session on April 28. Rumor has it they will wrap up by June. As a refresher, the House overrode Gov. Cooper’s veto of the 2019-2020 budget, but the Senate has been one vote shy of an override. The gridlock is primarily a rollback in the franchise tax for businesses, no Medicaid expansion and less education funding. According to Senate Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Rockingham), in all probability there will be no second-year budget during the short session in the spring. The same obstacles that exist now will more than likely still exist in the spring. Because there is no budget in place, the state is operating from the past budget. To avoid a government shutdown in case of a budget impasse, a procedure to follow was put in place a few years ago for cases just like this. The General Assembly was able to pass “mini-budget bills” during the fall. One included raises for most state employees. House Speaker Tim Moore’s assessment for the short session was, “You may have more of what we’ve had with the mini-budgets, where you try to find the areas where it would be very difficult for the governor to draw a controversy.” (Insider Jan. 14, 2020)

There was progress made during the one day session on scholarships for children of military veterans. Late in 2019, the scholarship funding ran out and many scholarship recipients were hit with a bill they were not expecting. The state was able to take money from this semester’s scholarship fund, but only as a temporary fix. The General Assembly did approve more than two million dollars in funding to continue to make these scholarships possible for our veterans’ children.

Political signs will soon pepper our landscape as every seat in the North Carolina General Assembly is up for election this year including the governor’s office, not to mention the Congressional and Presidential Election. North Carolina primaries will be held on March 3, followed by the General Election on November 3.

Good News From the Hill

On January 15, President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He signed phase one of the trade deal that has been in negotiation for quite a while. This hopefully will open the door to a more solid Phase Two deal. This in affect freezes the 20-month trade war between the US and China. The agreement is said to include commitments from China to buy \$200 billion of US goods which will include \$50 billion in ag products over a two year period. “Today we take a momentous step, one that has never been taken before with China, toward a future of fair and reciprocal trade as we sign Phase One of the historic trade deal between the United States and China,” Trump said. “Together we are righting the wrongs of the past and delivering a future of economic justice and security for American workers, farmers and families.” This phase of the agreement will have 15 percent tariffs on \$120 billion of Chinese imports, but will leave in place 25 percent tariffs on an additional \$250 billion of imports. (The Hill-Jan 15, 2020)

View from the Hill~2019 Recap National Grange

AGRICULTURE & FOOD Spending Bills Clear Congress

A couple days before heading home for their Christmas break, Congress cleared spending packages to fund the federal government for fiscal 2020. The legislation includes several new appropriations for agriculture including an additional \$1.5 billion for disaster relief (including quality loss) for farmers and ranchers; reinstatement of the \$1-a-gallon biodiesel tax credit; increases staffing to relieve shortages at Farm Service Agency offices; and kick-starts new farm bill-authorized programs including dairy business innovation initiatives, healthy fluid milk incentives projects, and micro-grants for food security. It also boosts rural broadband deployment by providing an additional \$550 million for USDA’s ReConnect program and includes hiring an additional 240 agricultural customs inspectors to protect domestic agriculture from importation of foreign diseases and pests.

HEALTHCARE Spending Bills Include Health Care

Significant health care policy changes include several National Grange priorities: repeal of the “Cadillac” tax on high-end funded health insurance; repeal of the medical device tax; and repeal of the individual mandate



health insurance tax. Several National Grange priority health care issues were left unsolved including prescription drug pricing and surprise medical bills. These will be back on the table for 2020.

Drug Pricing Bill Passes House

Speaker Pelosi's drug pricing bill, H.R.3, passed the House in December, a 230 to 192 vote along party lines. in December. H.R.3 would require the federal government to negotiate prices for costly drugs. However, H.R.3 may be dead on arrival in the Senate. Early in December, Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Wyden (D-OR) introduced their bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019. The Grassley-Wyden package takes a more prescriptive approach to drug pricing and appears to enjoy a broader patient support base.

When Rural Hospitals Close, Doctors Leave

When local hospitals close, rural and small town residents lose their availability to physicians in the local health care system as well. Not only are surgeons leaving these communities, but so are primary care physicians. It appears priority objectives for rural health care policy must include a focus on supporting and maintaining systems that do not depend on hospitals.

PAPER PLEASE

National Grange members have always asked for the choice to receive paper copies of notices, invoices, reports, statements and more rather than be forced to go online for these. Yet, the federal government and most large corporations are intent on going paperless, like it or not. Now, Representatives Larson (D-CT) and Buchanan (R-FL), and Senators Wyden (D-OR) and Cassidy (R-LA) have introduced the bipartisan Know Your Social Security Act which would restore the printed statement until such time as the wage earner chooses to transition to online statements.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Robo Relief

Congress has passed the TRACED Act with the President's support. The Act will require phone companies to implement cell-blocking technology and call authentication technology to determine if scammers are calling. Primary drivers of this National Grange priority on Capitol Hill to stop illegal and unwanted calls were Representatives Pallone (D-NJ) and Walden (R-OR), and Senators Thune (R-SD) and Markey (D-MA).

A \$9 Billion 5G Fund for Rural America

National Grange President Betsy Huber issued an early December statement strongly supporting Federal Communications Chairman Pai's plan to deploy high-speed 5G broadband into the rural and small town landscape. Huber lauded it as a huge step forward for rural equity in the social, education, health care, business and many other spheres. "Under his tenure, Chairman Pai has done so much within his area of influence to advance rural communities," according to Huber.

Satellite Programming Endangered

The National Grange has supported the reauthorization of the Satellite Television Community Protection and Promotion Act of 2019 (STELAR) before it expired December 31. Unfortunately, Congress allowed STELAR to expire. This leaves 870,000 satellite TV subscribers vulnerable to higher fees and the possibility of losing local and regional programming. It is imperative that Congress address retransmission fees and the negative impact on rural communications access.

Clear the Path for Mixed-Technology Broadband

The National Grange and the Connect Americans Now Coalition are urging the Federal Communications Commission to remove regulatory barriers to TV white space technology. The integration of unused TV white spaces with other broadband technologies will help extend connectivity to the "last mile" in rural areas.

TAXES

A bill has been introduced to update and modernize Section 2032A of the Internal Revenue Code regarding special use valuation on farm and ranch land for estate tax purposes. Representatives Panetta (D-CA) and Walorski (R-IN) are cosponsors of H.R. 5259, The Preserving Family Farms Act of 2019. The bill would allow property to be appraised on the basis of its current agricultural use value as farmland rather than its development value when determining estate taxes. The Panetta-Wolarski bill is supported by the National Grange and a long list of agricultural and landowner organizations.

TRADE

USMCA is Nearing Reality

The US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement is a major step closer to becoming law. Just before Christmas the House passed the trade pact with 193 Democrats and 192 Republicans voting in favor. Only 38 Democrats, two Republicans and one independent voted against UCMCA. This replacement to the North American Free Trade Agreement is seen as a major economic accomplishment



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that benefits U.S. agriculture and protects U.S. manufacturing jobs. Support is high in the Senate as well, but the USMCA vote may have to wait until the Senate finishes the impeachment trial for President Trump.

Phase One China Trade Pact

In mid-December, U.S. and Chinese officials signed off on a partial Phase One trade deal that includes a Chinese pledge to buy huge amounts (reportedly \$50 billion) of U.S. farm commodities. The U.S. did not levy new tariffs on China December 15 as planned but current tariffs on Chinese products will remain and may be reduced over time as further negotiations progress on a second deal that encompasses intellectual property, technology transfer, currency manipulation and more. The Phase One deal is expected (guardedly) to be formally signed in early 2020.

IMMIGRATION/AG WORKFORCE

Ag Worker Bill Clears the House

By a vote of 260-165, the House passed the bipartisan Grange-supported Farm Workforce Modernization Act, H.R. 5038 in December. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Lofgren (D-CA) and Newhouse (R-WA), expands H-2A from just a seasonal program into a year-round, three-year visa system. It provides a pathway to legal status for ag workers currently on farms and ranches to continue working in agriculture, requires the use of E-Verify to check the eligibility of new employees, and limits annual wage rate fluctuations. Proponents of the bill say it's the best chance to get relief from the ag worker crisis in the foreseeable future. Opponents say it gives eventual legal status to workers who are already in the U.S. illegally. Chances of passing any ag worker legislation through the Senate in 2020 is unclear.

H-2A Wages Jump 6%

The Labor Department announced ag worker wages under the H-2A program will go up 6% in 2020 to an average of \$13.99 depending on the state. The five states of California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Washington account for more than half of the certified H-2A workforce.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Campaigns against driving under the influence of alcohol and underage drinking raise the awareness of the catastrophic dangers of alcohol abuse behind the wheel. But alcohol now has some stiff competition for the abuse landscape. Studies compiled by CNN show the opioid, cocaine and methamphetamine crises are spilling over on to the roads. Marijuana is on the radar now as well. Breakdown of the studies show 8% of drivers said they had a drink before driving at some point during the previous year. Almost 5% of drivers reported driving under the influence of weed (marijuana) and approximately 1% said they had driven under the influence of other drugs. Studies also show marijuana use can seriously alter judgment, perception, ability to think clearly and reaction time.

From Joyce

by: Joyce Chadfetter

Family Living Director

Being a member of the NC Grange allows many of our members to show off their talents in the areas of crafts and baking. Competition has always been good at State Convention, where these contests are judged. The categories have basically remained unchanged over the years in both contests. Following our 2018 State Convention, we held a meeting to discuss if we needed to make changes in any areas of the convention. We felt that our craft categories were good, and they remained unchanged. The baking contest was a topic of conversation. I asked that we look forward and make new categories available due to the fact that recipes for some of our current, on-going categories were beginning to be the same each year. Therefore, we deleted categories and added new ones. It was a trial year for us, and I felt very pleased with the response. Approximately 45 baked goods were entered for judging at the 2019 convention. I am looking forward to 2020, and hopefully we will see even more entries this year. Thanks to everyone for making Family Living a fun time for all at our State Convention each September!

In Memoriam

Victor Crosby
Robert D. Hunt
Alice Rochelle
*Atha Mae Hammill

Union Grove
Associate Member
Beaufort County
St. Johns

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

Psalm 18:28
* 50 Year Member





TO OUR NEWEST
GRANGE MEMBERS!



Paula Cayton - Beaufort County
 David Loope - Beaufort County
 Kenny and Melinda Dabbs - Corriher
 Paul Van Sweden - Ferguson
 Angela Hood - Grantham
 Kermit Whitley - Grantham
 Mackenzie Logan Vann - Grantham
 Andre and Layla Cannon - Patterson
 Jonathan Layton - Summerfield

Be sure we have correct addresses
 on file for your members!

PATTERSON FARM CONT.

reduce power consumption. Fabric covers are used over the strawberries to reduce or eliminate overhead irrigation for the purpose of frost protection. These practices save water usage, electricity and fuel. Patterson Farm also utilizes integrated pest management. They scout their fields, only applying pesticides when needed. Their sprayers use only about 30 gallons of water per acre instead of 100 gallons per acre to minimize water and pesticide usage. Predatory insects are used to reduce the amount of pesticide spray application. Winter cover crops are planted to prevent soil erosion.

Honestly, I do not think I have ever seen a family so deeply ensconced in not only their family, business and livelihood, but also in their community. Outside of their dedicated individual involvement in community organizations and efforts, the family also supports the Shrine Circus, Lions Club, South Rowan and West Rowan Bible Teaching Associations, Special Olympics, Rowan Helping Ministries, local golf charities, YMCA, the Price of Freedom Museum as well as other local community school functions. They also support Breast Cancer Awareness providing an onsite mammogram screening location and assisted with Operation Clean Sweep for three roads in Rowan County.

As Grangers, we value family, and we know the critical importance of community involvement, especially in rural areas. The Patterson family's time, service, dedication and commitment are remarkable. We are proud to have them as part of our NC Grange family and are delighted to name them the 2019 Grange Farm of the Year.

ORDER YOUR YARD SIGN OR LICENSE PLATE

Place orders at NCGrange.com and look for the button on the homepage. All signs and license plates will be shipped to you.



FERGUSON GRANGE

By: Sharon Underwood

The Ferguson Grange had their annual Christmas dinner party and gift exchange at the historic family home of Frank Shuford in Happy Valley. There was great food, a funny white elephant gifts, a costume contest and a special home tour.



GOTCHA COVERED

TIMING IS CRITICAL

by: Mark Davis

We all have tasks that need completing. Some tasks are more important than others, and some are more pleasant than others. Often, we push tasks aside and think, “I’ll get to that tomorrow,” and it gets pushed aside again the next day until we finally get to it, or until the task becomes a full-fledged emergency situation. At times, we just kick the can down the road and ignore the situation until the door of opportunity has closed or a minor expense develops into a major expense.

I travel the roads of North Carolina for the NC Grange, visiting current and prospective agents, attending meetings, as well as many other functions. My travel will typically cover 3,000 miles in a month. Regular car maintenance is a key to keeping me on the road, enabling me to go when and where I need to be. While many of my visits are scheduled and pre-arranged, there are frequent schedule changes and emergency visits when a client or agent has an issue that needs immediate attention. I have been blessed to have a vehicle that has given me almost thirteen years of service without any major issues, until recently.

In the early summer, I begin to notice a little gear shifting bump that was becoming more regular. I had our mechanic check it out at a regular scheduled service. He stated that the transmission was showing the effects of the 350,000 miles of wear, and I should prepare for its death at some point. Knowing where and how often I was on the road, my wife and I had to decide on a repair or replacement of my car. This was a difficult decision because other parts of the car were also showing signs of age and the effects of the high mileage. In the end, I chose to have the car repaired, hoping to squeeze out another couple hundred thousand miles out of the vehicle.

However, 40,000 miles later, I started to notice that a manual shift was required at times to get the car in the correct gear. At the next scheduled maintenance, the problem was noted, but it would not replicate for the mechanic to enable him to fix it. He found a couple of injector seals that had failed, and now “tar” was covering the top of the engine. It was time to start looking for a replacement as the money pit cycle started spinning.

I purchased my car as a Certified Pre-Owned and wanted to repeat that process again, if possible. Due to the amount of miles I put on a car annually, I looked for another

diesel automobile. The availability of a diesel car is limited to just a couple of models, and the replacement for my current car stopped being offered in the US with the 2016 models. I was not in a particular rush to replace the vehicle due to the confidence that I had in my car to get me where I needed to be, even in its current state.

The urgency changed a bit in mid-November. I filled up with fuel, and when I got back into the car and turned on the switch – it did nothing! No clicking, no sounds, nothing. After pulling the key out of the switch several times and reinserting it, it finally read the key and started the car. This event was repeated several times over the next month. The mechanic prepared me for a replacement of the switch and key unit, which the independent shop could not do, and that repair would require a dealership visit. They estimated the cost at \$1,200 due to all the links the switch had to the engine, fuel delivery, transmission, computer, and the other electronics.

A lesson taught by my father-in-law was to never buy a car when you had to have one, buy it before you need it and you would always get a better price. However, the search for a replacement became a little more urgent and imminent, and the inventory of a diesel replacement with low mileage and a reasonable price was almost nil. After a couple of months of searching, I finally located two vehicles that I was seriously interested in, both of which were in the state of Florida.

We made the deal on one of them and drove the current one down to pick up the new one. We located a non-profit that wanted our old car, running or not. Thankfully, it was still running fine – until we were minutes away from the dealership. The old car started losing power, and we moved it safely to the side of the road. Once stopped, I checked the car over. There were no obvious signs except for a warning light glowing, and now the car would not move forward or backward. A tow truck was dispatched to pick up the car from the shoulder of the road. About an hour and a half later, our old ride with its 395,000 plus miles was moving on the rollback truck, and I said goodbye to my old friend.

The point of this story is that certain things need to be taken care of in our lives. One of those is our insurance coverage which includes the need for Life and Health for sure. We also need to consider coverage for Long Term Care and Disability. We all know this need lies in front of us, just like I knew that a car replacement was in my future. The timing for insurance review(s) and updates follows my father-in-law’s policy on the car purchase: the best deal is obtained when you do not have to have it. When you wait until you need it, it is going to cost you, if you can even find it. I just about waited too late to replace my car and get a good deal on a replacement. Do not let yourself fall into a trap of procrastination on your family’s insurance review. Call on one of our NC Grange agents, and they will be delighted to assist you with your needs.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

Our Sunday School class is currently in a study about other types of religions. We're using a book called *So What's the Difference?* by Fritz Ridenour. It is interesting how different religions say who Jesus is. Many say he was just a prophet or a good teacher. Islam says he was a Muslim prophet to make the way for Mohammed.

It is amazing how many people who are called "prophets" start religions different from Christianity or Judaism. All that we have studied so far have no witnesses to their encounters with angels or heavenly beings. Most write or rewrite their own scriptures. So what does the Bible say about Jesus?

John speaks of Jesus as the Word. "In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was With God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." John 5:1-5, (New International Version).

What did Jesus say about himself? In John 4:25-26, the woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am He." In Luke 22:70-71, they all ask, "Are you the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying that I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from His own lips." In John 8:58 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Before Abraham was born, I am!" And in John 6:38-40, he said, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of Him who sent me, and this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on that last day."

There are many more scriptures where Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Even the demons recognized Him as the Son of God. Luke 8:28-29 says, "When he saw Jesus he cried out and fell at His feet, shouting at the top of His voice, 'What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torchure me!' For Jesus had commanded the spirits to come out of the man." Mark says in Mark 1:23-25, "Just

then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – The Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' Jesus said sternly. 'Come out of him!' The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out with a shriek."

Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, who was crucified on a cross by the Romans, died and was buried. The third day he arose from the dead and was seen by more than 500 witnesses.

Jesus asks us all a question in Matthew 16:15, "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say that I am?" This is a question we all must answer at some point in our lives. The choice is ours.

DID YOU KNOW

By Al & Vinni Kirmss, Capitol Grange

Have you ever attended a National Grange Session? Al and I went to Minneapolis for Nationals this past November. We have attended the last 15 sessions. What a thrill each one has been! There is nothing like real Grange life and attending one of these sessions.

First of all, you make friends from across the country. These are friends you may see only once a year who will greet you with a smile, a big hello, and a huge hug. You can sit with anyone at meals or in the hospitality room and be welcomed. You spend time catching up with each other's lives and Grange happenings over the past year. We have found that these friends will gladly welcome you to their Granges for any function; or if you happen to be visiting their area, they are happy to help you if you should need it. They become life-long friends.

Secondly, you get to see the Grange at work. This is where Grange policy is set for the next year. The resolutions that have been received from State Granges are discussed and acted on, some becoming part of Grange policy. Resolutions that are passed become issues that the Grange will lobby to support such as broadband access for all. Some resolutions involve Grange Law, and if passed, help to regulate our Granges. This is the Grange at work!

Al and I have enjoyed each National Grange Session we have attended. We would encourage each of you to consider attending at least one. This year's session will be just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From what I have heard so far, it will be another great one, and we hope to see you there!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

SOUTHERN BANANA NUT BREAD

SHARON BLACKMAN | GRANTHAM GRANGE
FIRST PLACE BANANA NUT BREAD

½ CUP BUTTER-FLAVORED SHORTENING
1 ½ CUPS SUGAR
2 EGGS
1 CUP MASHED RIPE BANANAS (2 TO 3
MEDIUM)
1 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
3 TSP BAKING POWDER
1 TSP SALT
½ CUP BUTTERMILK
¾ CUP CHOPPED PECANS

TOPPING

¼ CUP MASHED RIPE BANANAS
1 ¼ CUPS CONFECTIONERS' SUGAR
1 TSP LEMON JUICE
ADDITIONAL CHOPPED PECANS

DIRECTIONS:

IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL, CREAM SHORTENING AND SUGAR UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY. BEAT IN EGGS. BLEND IN BANANAS AND VANILLA. ADD FLOUR ALTERNATELY WITH BUTTERMILK, BEATING WELL AFTER EACH ADDITION. FOLD IN PECANS. POUR INTO TWO GREASED 8-IN. X 4-IN. X 2-IN LOAF PANS. BAKE AT 350° FOR 45-55 MINUTES OR UNTIL A TOOTHPICK INSERTED NEAR THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN. COOL FOR 10 MINUTES BEFORE REMOVING FROM PANS TO WIRE RACKS TO COOL COMPLETELY.

FOR TOPPING, COMBINE THE BANANA, CONFECTIONERS' SUGAR AND LEMON JUICE IN A SMALL BOWL. SPREAD OVER LOAVES. SPRINKLE WITH PECANS. YIELD: 2 LOAVES