

GRANGE NEWS



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Gur Wil Farm
FARM OF THE YEAR

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16-19, 2023 Family Conference
Kitty Hawk, NC

July 9-13, 2023 Grange Camp
Columbia, NC

Cover Image by Jessica Horton of the Johnny, Gary and Robin McLaughlin of GurWil Family Farm. The NC Grange Farm of the Year.



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Youth/Young Adult Director **Jennie Gentry**
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Community Service Director **Anna Liles**
Publications Director **Jessica Horton**

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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FROM JIMMY | WASHINGTON DC

In December, I traveled to Washington, DC to a meeting of the Grange Advocacy Board. Grange Advocacy is a 501 c4 organization that is closely related to the National Grange. I was appointed back to this Board in 2021 after previously serving while I was the National Grange Vice President. Grange Advocacy is a success story for National Grange as it increases the capacity to provide advocacy on a variety of issues. In addition to the Board of Directors, there is also a Corporate Council made up of representatives from different groups that support Grange Advocacy. Companies such as Pfizer, US Telecom, PhRMA, Grail, and TMobile to name a few, contribute to Grange Advocacy because of the lobbying work being done. In the last few years, a lot of work has been done by the Grange legislative staff related to health-care and broadband, and companies in those arenas have been financially supportive of the efforts.

There are likely many Grange members in North Carolina who are not acquainted with Grange Advocacy, so I thought I would share some information about the organization. It is another level of lobbying done on behalf of Grange members, based on the grassroots policy created. When you combine the National Grange efforts with the advocacy provided by the NC State Grange, you can be assured that a lot of work is being done on your behalf to influence legislators on the issues for which we are interested.

In North Carolina, the long session of the General Assembly is getting under way, where many issues will arise. We are fortunate to have Laurie Barnhart leading our efforts, so that there is no doubt that NC Grange is serving you well. She will keep you informed of the General Assembly activities throughout this legislative season.



PLANTED

It's planting season! Have you noticed the fresh plowed fields, the overturned fragrance of soil, the rows cultivated, seeds planted, the new sprouts of crops, flowers and clover, dandelions, yellow flowers and more peeking through the dark soil? Ahhhh, nature at its finest work. Then come the prayers of good rain, sun, growth, with no damaging winds or storms to stop the promises of God's handiwork. But the wait time can seem buried in anticipation and hope. I have a t-shirt that reads "Nature is the Art of God – Beauty, Balance, Serenity, Harmony. Look about you and see the work of the Lord." This is what nature needs to flourish, but also what we need to build a root system so strong that when the storms of life come, we will remain firmly planted in God's truth.

Sometimes dark clouds hover over and make us question where we are. We might even feel like we need to feel more grounded in His Word so that we will reflect the beauty and nature of Christ in the middle of the storms. Then after the storms we can see sprigs of hope sprouting through by the Light of the Son. Roots anchor a tree to the soil, providing stability and a firm base. When your roots go deep, supplying you with spiritual food and drink for a healthy life, you will display strong branches, leaves, and fruit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22. This is the planted harvest we strive to have.

Speaking of fruit, at this writing, we just are finishing up the strawberry harvest. They had survived the cold frosts and storms that threatened their blossoms earlier. Then that beautiful red sweet fruit displays its art in the planted fields. Strawberries are my favorite fruit and I love to make pies with them or just gobble that red juicy fruit straight down or dip them in chocolate... YUM! Recently while I was slicing the berries to make a pie, I immediately noticed that it's heart shaped, and white on the inside. I thought this symbolizes the grace of Jesus on our lives: the red color for His blood shed on the cross covering our sins, the white of forgiveness of our hearts, the savor of His love in the "taste

and see that the Lord is good". This analogy made me more aware that He is there wherever I am in life. He is always "Emmanuel, God with us". It even gave me more of a desire to be more planted in His Word and prayer, and to grow in my relationship with Him and His presence and peace. This is my prayer for all of us.

The Apostle Paul prayed this for the Ephesians in chapter 3:14-19. "For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." This is what the Lord wants for us all; to be so "planted" in Him that we have a thriving life enriched by His truth and love. Jeremiah says it best in 17:7-8; "But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him, He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Amen. So be it.

In Memoriam

Louise Naylor
Shirley Carter
Esta Goodman
Roy Edwards
Bill Jimette
Albert Stegall
Martha Cleary
Allen Cato
Doug Bledsoe
Ted Martin

Westbrook Grange
Little Mountain Grange
Associate
Beaufort County Grange
Grantham Grange
Associate
Schley Grange
Schley Grange
Schley Grange
Schley Grange



SHARE YOUR HEART POEM

Everything is Possible by LaRue Tart

“Everything is possible to him who believes.”
Is one of my faith scriptures from Mark 9:23.
I’ve used it many times throughout my 71 years
To give me hope to survive even through my fears.
So, I’m sharing my story about my own heart
To let you know you’re not alone, even from the start.
I was born a “blue baby” my sweet mama told me,
But I didn’t know it was from a heart defect until age fifty.
The doctors said, “You’re a miracle to still be alive.”
I had severe aortic stenosis and I shouldn’t have survived.”
Immediate open-heart surgery I was told I must have
To replace the old and get a new mechanical aortic valve.
But the next day after surgery when I was in ICU
I went into sudden cardiac arrest, and they called code blue.
A 100% dual lead pacemaker I was told I would get,
But I knew God had a plan, He wasn’t through with me yet.
Going back to surgery, I asked “Lord, who am I
That you saved me from dying, not once but three times?”
And in His sweet voice with assurance so true
He said, “Because you’re my child, and I love you.”
“Now go sing and tell others that I love them too,
And I’ll give them new life just like I gave you.”
Then four days later on an early Sunday night
I felt weak and nauseas, and something wasn’t right.
“Clean her up STAT, take her down to CT,
She’s having a stroke” I heard someone speak.
It seemed like only a minute or maybe more too
This machine was roaring like a train coming through.
I lifted my left arm and said, “Why am I here?”
To the look of surprise of the technician there.
Then the doctor came out from the room with the scan
Saying, “What just happened I can’t understand.
I was looking at the damage but then it changed,
From severe doom to showing a normal clear brain.”
I told the doctor to write in his dictation notebook
That God did a miracle, more prayers had worked.
So, my heart story just doesn’t stop there,
I started a Mended Hearts chapter to help and declare
That no matter what journey you may be going through
We’re here with support, hope, care, and empathy for you.
It’s been many more years since my story began,
Several more surgeries, mild strokes, procedures again.
The last strokes affected my vision and balance,
But I’m still volunteering and using my singing talents.
I’m told there’s no cure for most congenital heart diseases,
But “Everything is possible for him/her who believes”.



Patricia Rogers – Associate Member
Robert (Bob) Medford – Associate Member
Donald Chambers – Associate Member
Karen Wade – Associate Member
Darren Wade – Associate Member
Richard Rogers – Associate Member
David Whisnant – Associate member
Charles Roper – Associate Member
Lawrence Ross – Associate Member
Mike Watt – Corriher Grange #627
Shannon Watt – Corriher Grange #627
Bob Williams – Corriher Grange #627
Beverly Williams – Corriher Grange #627
Freeman Hardison – Grantham Grange #968
Travis Stafford – Grantham Grange #968
Dewayne Craft – Associate Member
Robert Medford – Associate Member
Lillie Fie – Associate Member
Betina Gonzalez – Associate Member
Gene Deitz – Schley Grange #710
Kay Deitz – Schley Grange #710
Ken Langston – Associate Member
Tim Smart – Associate Member
Donald Smart Associate Member
Cathy Smart – Associate Member
Jean Rogers – Associate Member
Dawn Olive – Associate Member
Robert Langston – Associate Member
Gary Holtzman – Associate Member
Annette Adams-Associate Member
Philip Barnes – Associate Member



As predicted, opening day on January 11th for the 2023 Long Session was filled with excitement as families, friends and lobbyists gathered for the swearing in ceremony of the new General Assembly members as well as returning members. Former NC Governor Jim Hunt attended the ceremony and was introduced as Guest of Honor by Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson. Gov. Hunt's daughter, Sen. Rachel Hunt, was also inducted into the Senate. It was a beautiful day and spirits were running high. The Senate and House will both reconvene on January 25th to officially begin the 2023 Long Session's work.

At the first legislative session on the 11th the leaders of both the House and the Senate were elected. In the Senate, Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) was unanimously re-elected for a seventh term as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Sen. Berger has a long history in the North Carolina Legislature now serving his twelfth term. Sen Hise (Mitchell) was again re-elected as Deputy Pro Tempore. There was a 24% turnover in the Senate as a result of last November's election with twelve new members. There are now thirty Republicans and twenty Democrats in the Senate, giving the Republicans a super majority. A supermajority gives the Senate the power to override the Governor's veto. Sen. Berger has committed to taking up Medicaid Expansion quoted as saying, "I support expanding Medicaid in North Carolina, however, we must recognize that it is not a silver bullet. North Carolinians are saddled with some of the highest healthcare costs in the country.

We need to eliminate regulatory red tape and other bureaucratic barriers that impede access to care and unnecessarily increase medical costs." Sen. Berger has also committed to legislation on Voter ID, Parental rights and tax cuts. (McGuireWoods)

Senate Leadership roles

Majority Leader: Sen. Paul Newton

Majority Whips: Sens. Tom McInnis & Jim Perry

Republican Joint Caucus Leader: Sen. Carl Ford

Democratic Leader: Sen. Dan Blue

Democratic Whip: Sen. Jay Chaudhuri

Democratic Caucus Secretary: Sen. Julie Mayfield

Senate Committee Chair

Appointments:

- **Appropriations/Base budget:** Chairman Brent Jackson and Co-Chairs Ralph Hise, and Michael Lee
- **Ag, Energy & Environment:** Chairman Brent Jackson and Co-Chairs Senators Norm Sanderson and Lisa Barnes.
- **Rules Committee:** Senator Bill Rabon will remain as Chairman
- **Finance Committee:** Sens. Bill Rabon, Paul Newton and Jim Perry
- **Healthcare:** Sens. Joyce Krawiec, Jim Burgin, Kevin Corbin
- **Education/Higher Education:** Sens. Michael V. Lee, Amy S. Galey
- **Judiciary:** Sens. Danny Earl Britt Jr., Warren Daniel, E.S. "Buck" Newton
- **Pensions and Retirement and Aging:** Sens. Joyce Krawiec, Carl Ford
- **Redistricting and Elections:** Sens. Ralph Hise, Warren Daniel, Paul Newton

- **State and Local Government:** Sens. W. Ted Alexander, Carl Ford, Steve Jarvis
- **Transportation:** Sens. Tom McInnis, Vickie Sawyer, Michael A. Lazzara
- **Joint Legislative Committee on Governmental Operations:** Sen. Phil Berger
- **Select Committee on Nominations:** Sen. Bill Rabon
- **Appropriations on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources:** Sens. Norman W. Sanderson, Todd Johnson, David W. Craven Jr.
- **Appropriations on Education/Higher Education:** Sens. Amy S. Galey, Lisa S. Barnes, Dean Proctor
- **Appropriations on General Government and Information Technology:** Sens. W. Ted Alexander, Carl Ford, Steve Jarvis
- **Appropriations on Health and Human Services:** Sens. Joyce Krawiec, Jim Burgin, Kevin Corbin
- **Appropriations on Justice and Public Safety:** Sens. Danny Earl Britt Jr., Warren Daniel
- **Appropriations on Department of Transportation:** Sens. Tom McInnis, Vickie Sawyer, Michael A. Lazzara

In the House, Representative Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) was also re-elected as Speaker for a fifth term. This makes him the longest serving Speaker in North Carolina history. Representative Sarah Stevens (R-Surry) was re-elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. The House is just one seat away from a supermajority. If all members are present in the House, Republicans would need to obtain at least one Democrat to override a veto.



House Leadership roles:

- **Majority Leader:** Rep. John Bell
 - **Majority Whip:** Rep. Jon Hardister
 - **Deputy Majority Whip:** Rep. Brenden Jones
 - **Republican Joint Caucus Leader:** Rep. Harry Warren
 - **Conference Chair:** Rep. Jason Saine
 - **New Member Leader:** Rep. Kevin Crutchfield
 - **New Member Whip:** Rep. Brian Biggs
 - **Democratic Leader:** Rep. Robert Reives
 - **Deputy Democratic Leader:** Rep. Ashton Clemmons
 - **Democratic Whips:** Reps. Terry Brown, Marcia Morey, Amos Quick
 - **Freshman Co-Chairs:** Reps. Allen Buansi, Ya Liu
- Shelly Willington
 - **Appropriations:** Reps. Dean Arp, Donny Lambeth, Jason Saine (Senior Chairs), William Brisson, Jeffrey Elmore, John Faircloth, Kyle Hall, Brenden Jones, Wayne Sasser, Larry Strickland
 - **Appropriations/Ag & Natural Economic Resources:** Reps. Jimmy Dixon (Senior Chair), Karl Gillespie, Edward Goodwin
 - **Appropriations, Capital:** Rep. Kelly Hastings
 - **Appropriations, Education:** Reps. Jon Hardister, John Torbett, David Willis
 - **Appropriations, General Government:** Reps. George Cleveland, Dennis Riddell
 - **Appropriations, Health & Human Services:** Reps. Kristin Baker, Larry Potts, Donna White
 - **Appropriations, Information Technology:** Rep. Jack Johnson
 - **Appropriations, Justice & Public Safety:** Reps. Ted Davis, Dudley Greene, Charles Miller, Carson Smith
 - **Appropriations, Transportation:** Reps. Frank Iler, Phil Shepard
 - **Commerce:** Reps. Stephen Ross, John Sauls
 - **Disaster Recovery & Homeland Security:** Reps. John Bell, Mark Pless
 - **Education-K12:** Reps. Hugh Blackwell, Tricia Cotham, John Torbett
 - **Education-Community Colleges:** Rep. David Willis
 - **Rules, Calendar & Operations of the House:** Rep. Destin Hall
 - **Regulatory Reform:** Reps. Dennis Riddell, Jeff Zenger
 - **State Government:** Rep. Harry Walker

House of Representative Committee Chair

Appointments:

- **Agriculture:** Reps. Jimmy Dixon (Senior Chair), Jeffrey McNeely
- **Alcohol Beverage Control:** Reps. Bradford, Grey Mills,

All of the above Leader positions as well as Committee Chairs have the potential of being very important positions (depending on the legislation) in the new session.

It promises to be a lively session going into 2023. Hopefully the majority and minority parties can work together to make the best decisions for North Carolina. Make sure to catch “Capitol Connect” at the end of every week to get a weekly update.

FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Boomer Ferguson Elementary school principal, Mr Craig Tidline received a check for the schools Christmas Angel tree from Clarkie Brown, Ferguson Grange Community Service Director. The fund helps to buy needy children Christmas gifts. The club's November program was a great tour of the local school by Mr Tidwell and two teachers, Michelle Hartley and Courtney Bauguess.

The Ferguson Grange met January 19 at the Ferguson community center. President, Mike Brown shared many good plans that the officers have been made for programs and community service for the upcoming year. Clarkie Brown lead us in a fun, but silly bingo game that everyone enjoyed. Our Ferguson community center, where we have our monthly meetings has had a facelift with new paint and flooring!

LOCAL GRANGE NEWS



GROWING UP GRANGE

BY: CHARLES HOWERTON

Howerton presented this speech during a luncheon at the 2022 National Grange Convention

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Howerton Hour! I'm Charles Howerton, father of Baylor, Cade, and August. Before I start, I want to take a moment to savor and enjoy this opportunity to share the stage and microphone with my family. Cade and Baylor, thank you and great job on sharing your experience Growing Up Grange. Why are we here? What unique perspective can my family offer? We were invited here today to share our generational experiences and opportunities made possible through our involvement in the Grange. Hopefully, our testimonies will reinforce and provide further evidence of the many benefits and possibilities the Grange Foundation offers for Juniors, Youth, and Young Adults. Let me share a bit of my testimony and how we became involved in the Grange. I grew up in rural NC on a 300-acre tobacco farm. Back then, everyone in the community grew tobacco. It was a true farming community. Farmers would gather at the local country store, all wringing their hands over the current dry spell, wondering if and how if they were going to be able to harvest the crop before the first frost. The Grange was in my community for years, but when I was a kid, the local Grange had disbanded. They reestablished in the early 1990s when I was attending college, so I didn't really "Grow up Grange." We became involved in the Grange when my oldest child was about eight years old after she was invited to attend Grange Camp, a week-long sleep away

camp. I take my responsibility as a parent seriously and was very concerned about sending my kids off to camp. It was an unknown to me. I didn't know what to expect or what my kids would be exposed to. In order to make myself feel better, I went to camp with her as a counselor. Subsequently, each of the kids had aged into camp but I had not aged out yet. With each year following that first camp, I became more and more involved with various aspects of Grange: local Grange meeting and events, community involvement, state conferences and family events, and now onto the national level. I didn't have the opportunity to "Grow up Grange," but I can make sure others have that opportunity. My charge today is to share with you the many benefits I have personally observed in my family related to our experiences in Grange.

My oldest daughter learned a sense of community service and sacrifice through her involvement in Grange. For example, in college as an undergrad, she won the Compass Award, an honor her class awards for service to her department at ECU. She was the classmate who stayed after class and events to setup or breakdown and cleanup afterwards, always going that extra mile for the benefit of the group. I like to believe that she learned the importance of contributing this extra time and effort through her involvement in Grange.

My middle daughter is sharing the stage with me today. Through her involvement in Grange, she was provided opportunities to lead groups of her peers and to speak in front of audiences. I believe you can all see how that worked out today but let me share another example. In her High School Senior Awards, she was presented with the Senior Speech Award. I believe she gained confidence, experience, and comfort in public situations from her involvement in

Grange.

My son here today has been presented with numerous opportunities this past year through his position as National Junior Ambassador. He was given the opportunity to interact with people from around the country, to build friendships with people from varying backgrounds, and to see that the world is larger than our small rural community.

These are examples from my kids, but it doesn't stop here. One of the cool things about my involvement across the years is that I get to observe (and hopefully positively influence) other kids "Growing up Grange." We have a large delegation of youth from NC joining us this week, and I've had the privilege to work with this group over the past years. Let me share a bit about a few of them and their journey.

Autumn Whitaker, once a quiet, shy, young girl, has blossomed into a confident Young Adult contending for Young Adult Parton. Asheton Medlin is a natural born leader who will have the platform tonight to share one of the most moving and poignant speeches you will hear this week. Do yourself the favor of attending the event tonight and learn what is important to youth today. Jacob Roquet is a young man who has faced many difficulties but has been able to lean on his Grange network to work through difficult times.

All of these opportunities came through our involvement in Grange, and more specifically, the Grange Youth Program. I've realized that I have the opportunity to impact not only my own family but also other youth. I didn't have the chance to "Grow up Grange," but I can make sure these kids do. I'll wrap up with a challenge to you. I challenge you to continue to grow in the Grange, grow your Grange, and grow the opportunities for others to reap these same benefits. Thank You.



LOOKING FORWARD

When I was learning to mow the yard, my Dad was right behind me as I pushed the mower along. At first he would reach his hand out to redirect the mower where it should be headed. Then he would tell me to “Look where you are going – look straight ahead.” I am sure that it was frustrating for him when I was distracted by my older brother or our dog. Usually the grass was already short so I wasn’t leaving much of a “freshly mowed” line which made it difficult for me to see what needed mowing.

As I grew older, I wanted to learn to plow the horse. I thought I could swap my hoeing job for my brother’s plowing job. Dad was once again behind me. We repeated the mower lesson, except this time my distraction was my feet. His hand helped me guide the plow again and repeated the phrase to “Look where you are going – look straight ahead”. Later on when I had better control of the plow, we started to lay off some additional rows in the garden. His instruction then was to fix your eyes on where you are going and that will help keep the rows

straight. I use this same principle today when I am mowing hay, or reseeding the pastures

As we start 2023 there are some things in process that we need to keep our eye on to make sure that we hit our target goals. Remembering these childhood lessons are helpful when applying them to our NC Grange Insurance Program.

For 2023 we have our Under-65 marketing goal and a projected 2024 goal to maximize our BCBSNC marketing allowance. While 2022 was a very successful year, thanks to our NC Grange Agents hard work, we cannot rest on our past success. We must plan now to expand efforts to reach the stretch goals projected for 2024. We will accomplish that by enriching our current agent marketing efforts as well as growing the number of NC Grange Agents to assist with our marketing efforts.

While we have not received our 2023 Medicare (over 65) sales goal, but I am expecting that there will be an increase in that number as well. This area is

where we have the most potential for growth, and I am looking forward to seeing this segment become as large as our Under-65 program. The Medicare segment can be very confusing for many entering that phase of life, and we are here to help. You can help us help your family, friends and neighbors as they approach the age of eligibility for Medicare by referring them to us for our assistance. Our services cost them nothing. We will put their needs first to guide them to the correct product that best serves their need(s).

Presently, I am looking for an assistant. This new position will assist us in serving our agents and clients. Please contact me if you know of someone who may be interested in a challenging but rewarding career. My goal is to have someone in place by early summer.

In summary, we have a huge task in front of us to continue the growth of our BCBSNC program. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we strive for continued success!



Driving through Rowan County on a beautiful autumn afternoon is quite therapeutic. The sun dapples the countryside with shades of amber, red and yellow. Farm fields and pastures dot the countryside. Interviewing the owners of the NC Grange's Farm of the Year recipient is one of my favorite responsibilities with the Grange. It is always a pleasure to visit our farmers and have a glimpse into not only their farms but their lives which are so closely intertwined. It was no different this year on that autumn day as I sat down and talked with Gary and Robin McLaughlin of Gur Will Farms in their beautiful, cozy log home. They were so gracious and generous to give me an hour out of their busy lives to talk with me about their farm.

The McLaughlin have quite an extensive history with the Grange. Gary's parents were Grange members, and Gary joined as a Junior and Youth Granger as a subordinate member. He has been a member of Corriher Grange since 2017 equating to a forty-year history. Gary also attended FFA Camp. Robin joined Corriher in 2017.

Gur Will Farm is a family farm in Rowan County that is designated as a Century Farm by the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Gur Will is owned and operated by Gary and Robin McLaughlin along with various family members including their children and Gary's brother Johnny McLaughlin. The McLaughlin's farm consists of nine-five acres of wheat, one hundred and twenty acres of soybeans and thirty-five head of beef cattle. Gary is involved in all of the planning and implementation of farm operations. He also plants, harvests and transports the products to market and the cattle to sales. Johnny, Ryan and Bubba are both involved in the harvesting of crops, making hay and feeding the cattle.





Our Wil Farm
FARM OF THE YEAR

STORY BY: LAURIE BARNHART
PHOTOS BY: JESSICA HORTON

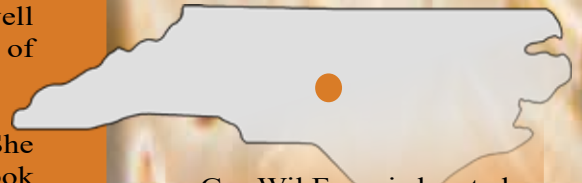


Gur Will Farm has incorporated conservation practices by using no-till drill procedures and they have terraced fields for soil conservation. They also practice crop rotations that include rotation of fallow fields. The major equipment operated on the Gur Will Farm are a combine, tractors, a grain drill, hay rakes, a bailer, a bush hog, a cattle trailer, a dump truck and of course a pick-up truck. The Gur Will Farm also has a farm barn which is used to store hay and equipment and a tractor shed that is also used to store equipment.

The McLaughlin's have all been involved in their community carrying on a Grange tradition. Gary has received the Firefighter of the Year award by the Atwell Fire Department where he served as Chief for 21 years before retiring. Robin received the 2003 Great 100 Nurse Award; Johnny also received the Atwell Fire Department Firefighter of the Year award as well as their Officer of the Year award. Ryan has received the Atwell Firefighter of the Year and State Grange Firefighter of the year award.

Robin grew up in the neighboring town of Landis. She did not grow up on a farm. She jokingly told me it took her twenty-five years to truly understand "farming". She adds that she should have read the book "How to be a Farmer's Wife" before she was married, because it was a very hard lesson to learn. Growing up on a farm myself and watching the support my Mother gave my Father, I can certainly see and understand the complexity of marrying into a farming family.

The Gur Will Farm exudes the true definition of a "family Farm" where it is all hands on deck when needed, supporting the family nucleus and serving one's community.



Gur Wil Farm is located at McLaughlin Farm Road and Jackson Road in Mooresville, NC.



The following article was written by Corriher Grange member, Vinnie Duncan, in 1978 regarding the recognition of Mr. Dtizo (D.W.) McLaughlin for his 49 years of service to the Corriher Grange community and North Carolina agriculture. Mr. McLaughlin was Gary's Grandfather.

D. W. McLaughlin Honored By Corriher Grange

By Vinnie Kiser



Mr. Dtizo (D. W.) McLaughlin was honored Saturday night, June 3, by the members of Corriher Grange #627 for his 49 years of service of the Corriher Grange community and in the field of agriculture throughout the State.

Mrs. John A. Kiser, Secretary of Corriher Grange, was in charge of the program. Over 100 people attended the special event.



Special guests were introduced by Mrs. Kiser. These included Mr. D. W.'s children—Foil McLaughlin of Raleigh; Bob and Martin, both of Corriher Grange Community; Mrs. Ed (Clara) Turrentine and Mrs. Raymond (Virginia) Sutton, of China Grove. Also attending were grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins of Mr. D. W.



The second group of special guests in attendance were acquaintances of Mr. D. W. during the earlier years of the Grange in Rowan County and in the State. These included Mr. James A. Graham, State Commissioner of Agriculture; Mr. Lloyd Massey, State Grange Master, and his wife,

“Miss” Eunice; Mr. Brady Angell, Chairman, State Grange Executive Committee and his wife; and Miss Pearl Thompson, State Grange and Rowan Pomona Secretary. Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell, Sr. of Greensboro, both former State Grange Masters were unable to attend. However, Mrs. Caldwell sent a message to Corriher Grange members and also a tribute to Mr. D. W. This tribute was read aloud and then presented to Mr. D. W. as a keepsake.

During the memories section of the program, special guests commented on the activities Mr. D. W. participated in throughout these 49 years. The Commissioner specifically mentioned most important contributions—the development of farm-to-market roads during the term of Governor W. Kerr Scott and the Grange's early program of cooperative buying of fertilizer.

Mr. Lloyd Massey, State Master, then presented to Mr. D. W. a framed picture of the 1929 Reorganizational Meeting of the North Carolina State Grange which was held in Raleigh. Mr. D. W. attended this meeting and is in the picture.

Corriher Grange #627 was chartered on September 18, 1929. Mr. D. W. held position as first Master. Throughout the earlier years, he was also a charter member of the North Carolina State Grange and the Rowan Pomona Grange.

Over the many years, Mr. D. W. has filled the following offices in Corriher and Rowan Pomona—Secretary, Business Agent, Overseer, Gatekeeper, Chairman of Executive Committee and Chairman of many more important Committees.

In 1937 he was Chairman of the Building Committee to remodel the Hall (Corriher Grange Hall was formerly Corriher School). In 1948, Mr. D. W. played an important part in the securing of paved roads in rural areas and also in 1951 was instrumental in securing telephone service.

But a most important contribution was in 1938. While traveling through the State of Louisiana, Mr. D. W. kept seeing trucks that had the word “Farm” written on the license plates. So when he stopped at a service station for gas, he asked the man there what it stood for. The station operator replied that farmers got their tags for half price.

Mr. D. W. drew up a resolution to that effect and presented it to the 1940 State Grange Session held in Salisbury. It was subsequently passed and sent to Raleigh for approval. The resolution was passed in Raleigh and farmers have been getting their license plates at a lower price for their farm vehicles ever since.

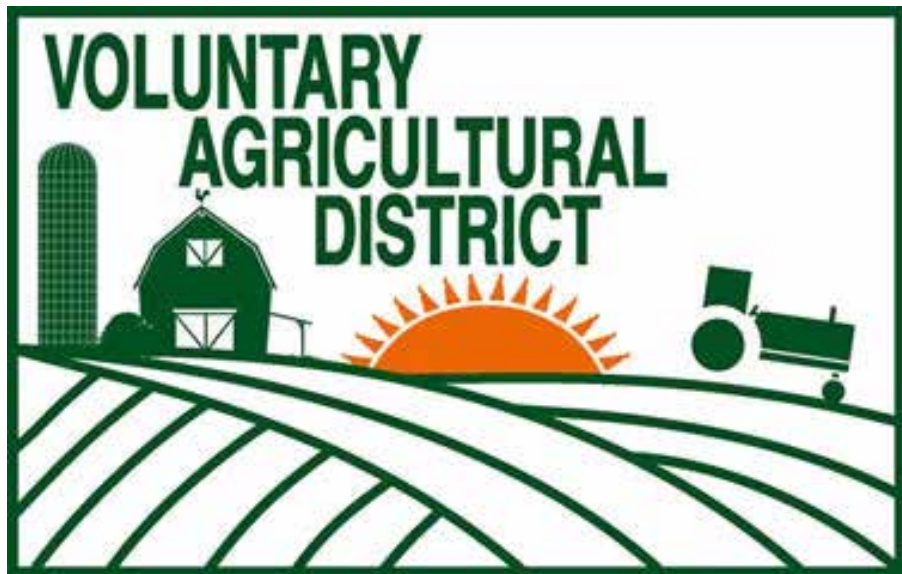
As Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell so well stated in their tribute: “We believe that D.W. McLaughlin's life can best be summarized as ‘service to my fellowman and my Creator is the best work of life’”.

Mrs. Bob McLaughlin, Lecturer of Corriher Grange, had the closing remarks. Afterwards fellowship and refreshments of homemade cakes, pies, cookies, and punch were enjoyed by all.



GRANT opportunity

NC State Grange is excited to be partnering with our North Carolina landowners in providing grants to assist them in protecting their farm and forest lands. North Carolina currently has the unfortunate title as ranking second in the nation, behind Texas, for threat of conversion to development, as noted in the American Farmland Trust's study, *Farms Under Threat: The State of the States* even though it is only 30th in total agricultural acreage. If development follows recent trends, the U.S. will convert 18.4 million additional acres of agricultural land to more developed uses between 2016 and 2040.



NC State Grange is committed in partnering with our state's counties and non-profit organizations by providing conservation grants for Voluntary Agricultural District signage for enrolled landowners and agricultural conservation easement establishment expenditures on privately owned farms and ranches. Local county VAD administrators may apply on behalf of their county VAD members for \$4,500 that may be used to purchase signage recognizing a land parcel's VAD designation. Land Trusts and county Soil & Water Districts or county preservation departments may also apply for \$3,000 on each private landowner project they represent that is currently under the process of establishing an agricultural conservation easement.

Eligibility for VAD Grants:

- Grant applicants must be a County Government agency with an active VAD program.
- The VAD landowner receiving signage using NC State Grange funding must be or become a NC State Grange Member.
- The VAD program must be meet the NCGS 106-737 requirements.

Eligibility for Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants:

- Grant applicants must be a registered North Carolina non-profit conservation organization or a County Government agency with the ability to hold an agricultural conservation easement. Grant applicant may have multiple applications.
- Landowner(s) seeking a conservation easement must be or become a NC State Grange Member.
- A formal agreement between the landowner and entity to hold the conservation easement (NC Soil & Water District and NC Land Trust) must be in place and a copy provided with application request.
- North Carolina non-profit conservation organization or a County Government agency must provide proof of application to NCDA&CS ADFPTF or USDA NRCS ALE for conservation easement grant funding.
- Land parcel seeking an agricultural conservation easement must have proven documentation of food and / or fiber production (crops, nursery, poultry, livestock, aquaculture, forestry, etc.) as described in NCGS 106-581.1. Agriculture defined.

For more information and to download an application, please visit www.ncgrange.com/grants. Please send a signed and completed application to dhardee@ncgrange.com. PDF documents preferred. Application must be received by March 31, 2022.



North Carolina Grange
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ncgrange.com

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID



We will be collecting items for Healing Transitions at our 2023 Family Conference in March. Please bring or send the following items!

Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Lotion
Socks

Chapstick
Pens
Notebooks
Washcloths