

The official publication of the NC Grange

January / February 2024

GRANGE NEWS



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ON THE COVER

Marianna Harrison,
owner of MariBee's
Boer Goats

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 9-11 Winter Youth Conference | Asheboro, NC
- March 14-17 Family Conference | Atlantic Beach, NC
- July 7-13 Grange Camp | Eastern 4-H Center
- September 19-22 State Convention | Durham, NC

STATE OFFICERS

- President **Jimmy Gentry**
- Vice President **David Allen**
- Program Director **Bobbie Dellinger**
- Steward **Mark Hood**
- Assistant Steward **Jason Davis**
- Lady Asst. Steward **Crystal Allen**
- Chaplain **LaRue Tart**
- Treasurer **Julia Stack**
- Secretary **Barden Culbreth**
- Greeter **Philip Duncan**
- Ceres **Dianne Hudson**
- Pomona **Sharon Ritchie**
- Flora **Wanda Crawford**

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- Jimmy Martin**
- Tom Cash**
- Vinnie Duncan**
- Melanie Hudson**
- John Crawford**
- Raymond Hayes, II**

- President **Jimmy Gentry**
- Vice President **David Allen**
- Secretary **Barden Culbreth**
- Treasurer **Julia Stack**
- Emeritus* **Carlton Barefoot**
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- Coordinator
- Legislative Director **Laurie Barnhart**
- Youth/Young Adult Director **Jennie Gentry**
- Admin /Junior Director **Emily Hartsell**
- Community Service Director **Anna Liles**
- Events/Publications Director **Jessica Horton**
- Agriculture Programs **Dewitt Hardee**
- Coordinator

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 | SCARY EFFORTS

Shortly before the end of the year we were made aware of a new effort that is one of the most scary and threatening endeavors that I have known. The Securities and Exchange Commission wants to move forward with a new concept called Natural Asset Companies (NAC's). If approved, these companies would monetize the environment. Using climate change as the need, in some fashion actions that would reduce carbon being released into the atmosphere would generate payments for those involved in these NAC's. On the surface it appears to be a way for the wealthy to become even more wealthy. It is estimated that these companies will generate a new economy in the trillions.

The way it would happen is that NAC's would literally take over the management of both public and private lands in the country. A system would be developed so that management rights would be signed over, resulting in these companies having complete control. It is a huge threat to private property rights. Research that we have done indicates that President Biden already plans to turn federal government properties over to NAC's. Foreign investors would be welcome.

Indications are that as part of land management, the NAC's would literally take land out of production. Imagine what that would do to our food supply as well as food prices. Our studies have also shown that for property being held in conservation easements by land trusts, these properties could be turned over to NAC's without permission from the landowners.

There was a comment period that expired on January 22, 2024. NC Grange provided comments in opposition to the development of NAC's. In addition, we have sent our concerns to congressional representatives.

Fortunately, the effort has been dropped by the New York Stock Exchange and the SEC, at least for now. I hope it never comes up again, but it is possible that another attempt could occur. We will keep watch.



I AM RESOLVED

Happy New Year! At the beginning of a new year, we hear a lot about resolutions. The dictionary defines a resolution as “the act of changing, transforming, or deciding something for a fixed purpose.” Most of these are for a better purpose in our personal lives. Often times these start out as good intentions, but then we get busy with other things, and they get put on a back seat.

I hope this is not the case in our spiritual lives and doing the purpose of our service and calling for the Lord. A familiar scripture I use often is Matthew 6:33: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these [things] will be given to you as well.” What “things” are we resolving to attain or to do? Are we seeking the Lord first?

My brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are called to be a servant of the Lord, to [resolve] to “retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him, and which God has called him,” 1 Corinthians 7:22. To you, young people who are not sure of your calling or purpose, remember this promise from Psalms 138:8: “The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your love, O Lord endures forever. Do not abandon the works of your hands.” Also remember this well-known word of encouragement: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart,” Jeremiah 29:11-12. Let us all resolve to seek the Lord daily, and not to just seek him, but listen to Him as well.

I leave you today with the words of an old red book hymn that I hope will help you resolve to “hasten to Him” in all places of your life. I ask that you find an old red hymn book and read or sing all the verses and the chorus. It will lift your spirit. Be blessed more in 2024!

I AM RESOLVED

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight.

Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight.

I will hasten to Him, Hasten so glad and free,
Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee.

BUSHY FORK GRANGE

by : Beverly Moore

Bushy Fork Grange was a very busy little Grange in 2023. We had multiple months of collecting food for the Christian Help Center, Samaritans Purse, as well as collecting school supplies and personal items for students in need in our community. We also packaged items for military personnel and for My Life Matters to support local youth. As part of our monthly meetings, we enjoyed hearing speakers from the Hurdle Mills Volunteer Fire Department and Samaritans Purse as well as local officials and our own members who reported on events.

Happy New Year from Bushy Fork Grange in Person County!
We look forward to a successful 2024 Grange year.



In Memoriam

Joe Campbell
Robin Bryan
Vanessa Stegall
Douglas Williams

Schley Grange
Clay County Grange
Matrimony Grange
Grantham Grange

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

Psalm 118:28
* 50 Year Member

FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange had a great meeting in January. After our business meeting, members participated in a creative card making session and silly bingo. We also enjoyed eating a celebration cake for having such a successful year. We now have 46 members who enjoy the many benefits of being an active Grange member in our community.

Our Grange also held a food drive for the Boomer Ferguson Elementary School Food Pantry. Special thanks go to the generosity of the Brushy Mountain IGA; Marketplace; Keith Huffman, who generously donated a large amount of food to the project; and our Grange members.

The Ferguson Volunteer Fire Department received the 2023 Fire Department of the Year Award at the NC Grange State Convention last fall. Ferguson Grange's President, Mike Brown, presented the award and monetary prize to Stanley Edmonston, President of the Ferguson Fire Department, at their annual holiday dinner.



BROGDEN GRANGE

by : Jimmy Martin

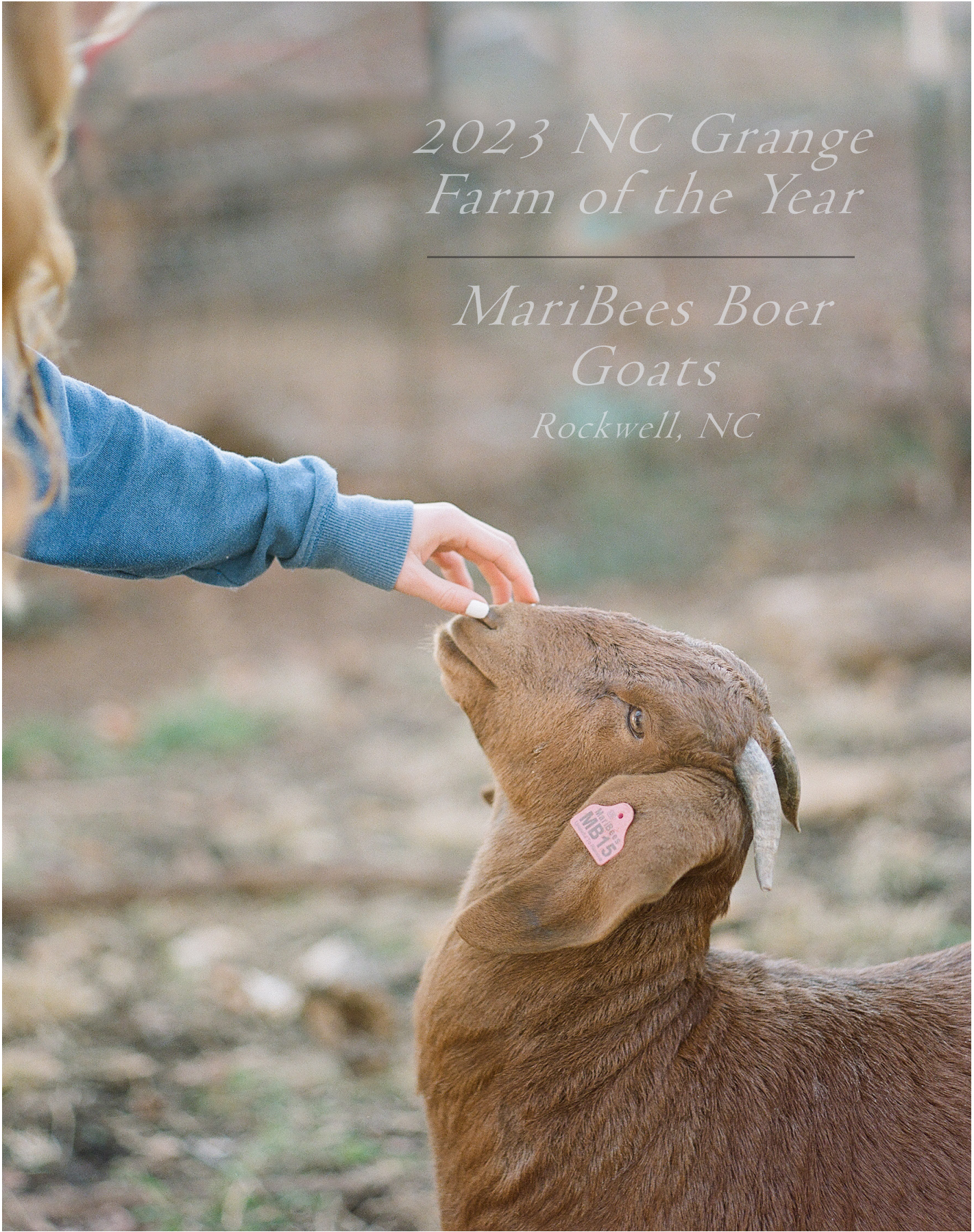
Brogden Grange in Dudley, NC, held a meeting on January 23rd in the fellowship hall of Dudley Christian Church. The evening started with a meal of bar-b-que and fried chicken, with some slaw, potato salad and hushpuppies, topped off by some delicious homemade desserts.

The night was highlighted by our State President, Jimmy Gentry, who gave a presentation on the history and the meanings of the degrees of the Grange. If you have never seen this presentation, please schedule in someone from the NC Grange office to come to your Grange meeting and enlighten your new and old members on this important aspect of the Grange journey. We often recite words that we are led to say without knowing where they came from and what they really mean to us as a fraternal body. This presentation, in the words of three of the Brogden members "helped them to make sense of the ceremony and salutations that are said in Grange meetings" and also "gave them an insight into the comradery of belonging to a fraternity". The Brogden Grange was chartered on April 26, 1937 and started with 82 members. In its prime it had over 140 members. Our goal is to reinvigorate the Brogden Grange

by involving the ancestors of those past and deceased members, and to increase our novice Grange members, so that they can pass on a legacy of service to their future family members.

We also had a great presentation by one of our members that is interested in cleaning and maintaining the family graveyards in our community that have been abandoned and no longer have any family members around to care for them. She brought it to our attention that many past Grange members, past prominent farmers and even a Governor of NC are buried in our area and their memorials have been lost to time. Before the next meeting we will send out a questionnaire to the membership to gauge what level of involvement they would commit themselves to, be it physical help, looking up genealogical records or financial support for supplies. What a great project to honor our past members!

Brogden Grange meets every quarter on the 4th Tuesday. Our next meeting is April 23. Come see us! We meet at 212 O'Berry Road, Dudley, NC 28333.



*2023 NC Grange
Farm of the Year*

*MariBees Boer
Goats
Rockwell, NC*

I have always had an infatuation with goats. They are funny and curious and all the things that make me laugh. I was so looking forward to visiting MariBees Boer Goat Farm in Rockwell, a small farming community located not far from Concord. Much to the joy of St. John's Grange, MariBees Boer Goat Farm was the recipient of the North Carolina Grange Farm of the Year at the 2023 State Convention, so I set out one Sunday afternoon to visit and write a story on this little farm.

Marianna Harrison, with the support of her parents, Meredith and John, and her sister Emma and little brother Justin, started MariBees in 2022. At present, with the help of her sister Emma, Marianna runs a herd of full Boer goats and one dairy goat named Harper. Currently, MariBees Goat Farm has 13 adult goats and 7 goat kids that were born in January 2024. As Meredith escorted me to the back of their home where the goats are housed, not only did I see the goats, but I saw four sheep, a brood of chickens, cattle out in the pasture, five beagles, a cat, and a Great Pyrenees whose job is to protect the goats from predators. I was amazed!

The goal of MariBees is to breed Boer goats that are show quality which is an extremely tedious task requiring a great deal of skill, not to mention a tremendous amount of patience. Because of my interest in goats, I struck out to do some research on Boer goats of which I knew absolutely nothing. I wanted to be armed with somewhat intelligent questions for Marianna and Emma. Turns out, they are an extremely interesting breed with a rich history. For starters, "Boer" means farmer. History has it, they were more than likely bred from a blend of Indian goats and indigenous European, Angora and Indian goats. The word Boer was probably given to this breed in order to tell them apart from Angora goats. These goats were first bred in the 1920s when ranchers in the Eastern Cape Province of Africa began breeding meat goats. The Boer goats we know today arrived in America in 1993. (Information obtained from OSU Extension website and the American Boer Goat Association website.)

I will say, Marianna is not what I would have imagined the typical goat farmer to be. This amazing petite, blond haired, blue-eyed young lady is one of the most motivated and well directed seventeen-year-olds that I have ever met. Graduating from high school this spring, Marianna would like to further her education, probably at Stanley Community College. Following that, she plans to further her education at a university. The goat farm has enabled her to further her interest in breeding. She has a passion for genetics, and she is particularly interested in livestock artificial insemination. I was amazed at her vast knowledge in goat breeding.

story by : Laurie Barnhart
photos by: Jessica Horton

MariBees was definitely well deserving of the NC Grange Farm of the Year award. Marianna's duties on the farm include taking care of the birthing, dehorning, medication, etc., during kidding season. It is no surprise to find her camping out late at night with an expectant doe to ensure a successful birth. Marianna has been an active member of St. John's Grange since 2021. She enjoys helping with their annual noodle making activities, and she has presented programs on dairy cows, dairy goats, and her goat farm at several Grange meetings at St. John's. Along with her schoolwork and her goats, she also finds the time to volunteer at Pless Dairy helping with feeding the baby calves. She is also very active with the Mount Pleasant High School FFA where she currently holds the office of President. Her sister, Emma, is close at Marianna's heels staying just as busy. Both girls are also involved in training other FFA members to show goats. They go twice a week to practice at the high school with their Ag teacher. Of course, they work endlessly at home with their personal goats.

The most impressive thing about this farm is the support Marianna's parents have given to this interest. Without that support, none of it would be possible. As it is with any animal agriculture business, it is all hands on deck. To say it is a commitment is an understatement. There are hours of bottle feeding when the goats are young, hoof trimming



every six to eight weeks, cleaning out the pens every few months, and during the cold, rainy months, the shelters are bedded down with fresh straw every one to two weeks. A preventative, CD&T, is also administered to every goat yearly, which is done within the first week of the new year. Daily farm tasks include feeding grain to all the goats twice a day and feeding them hay once a day. Water is checked daily, and water buckets are deep cleaned and scrubbed once a week, normally on Saturdays.

Offspring are sold, which in turn creates the opportunity for other youth to learn about showing goats and all the responsibilities associated with this activity. Marianna and Emma both show goats every chance they get and are teaching their younger brother to do the same. Marianna is continually working to increase the herd size and to improve genetic traits. Marianna and Emma work together to ensure that the day-to-day operations of feeding, refilling water, and routine medical needs are met. In 2022, Emma was awarded State Grange Junior of the Year. Their

mother, Meredith, was awarded St. John's Grange Educator of the Year for 2023.

The commitment this family has made for what a lot of people would consider a bit of a whim is nothing less than admirable. For these teenagers, there is no running off to summer camps, last minute overnight sleepovers, or heading to Raleigh for a football weekend. What I saw was maturity and love for these animals. The responsibilities they have are ones that you do not leave behind. I have so much esteem for these parents for allowing their children to have this experience which could very well carry them forward in a very fruitful and happy life.

Congratulations to Maribeas Boer Goat Farm and St. John's Grange on receiving the NC Grange 2023 Farm of Year award. It is truly well deserved! A special thanks goes to Marianna and Emma for letting me hold one of the new kids affectionately name "Taylor Swift" for more than forty-five minutes! I loved every single minute!





COMMUNITY

by : Anna Liles



Items to donate to Martha's Mission at Family Conference

- canned vegetables
- canned fruits
- peanut butter
- jams and jellies
- cooking oil
- cereal (adult and children)
- flour
- sugar
- rice
- dressing mix
- spaghetti
- pasta sauce
- canned meat
- popcorn
- cool aid
- cake mixes
- frosting
- cracker sets
- personal hygiene items

143878098 © Maksim Shmeljov | Dreamstime.com

LOCAL GRANGE NEWS

ST JOHN'S GRANGE

by : Emily Hartsell

St. John's Grange held its annual planning meeting on December 28. The evening began with food and fellowship before President Greg Furr started the meeting to plan the year ahead. Members scheduled several events including a "Clean Up Day" to revitalize the Grange Hall. We also selected Saturday, March 2 to hold a Farmers Appreciation Breakfast for the community. St. John's Grange is committed to making local farmers feel supported and appreciated. After extensive discourse, members in attendance decided to continue their annual Chicken Noodle Supper in 2024. A committee was formed to plan the supper which will be held Saturday, November 23. Our Grange welcomes community members and other Grange members who are interested in learning the art of making noodles from scratch to join us on June 3 and June 5 to learn how. Lastly, Grange members voted on annual awards, which will be presented at our Awards Banquet in April during Grange Month. St. John's Grange members are looking forward to great year of service and fellowship.

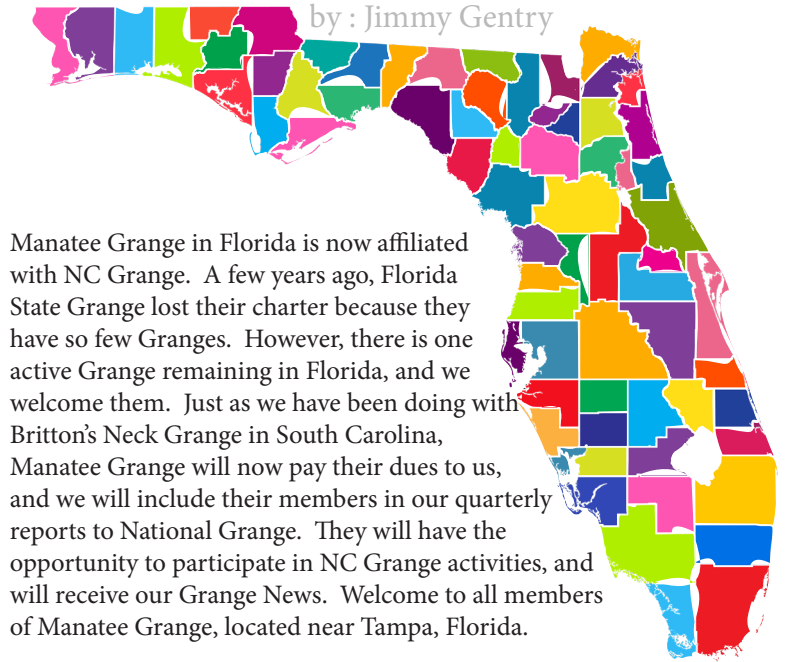




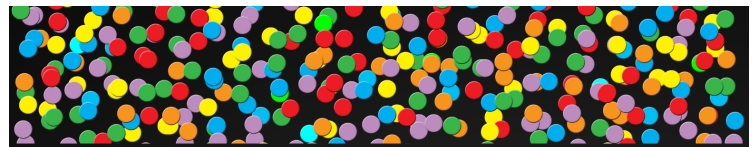
- Dustin Jernigan – Associate**
- Randy Emmitt – Schley**
- Kate Millard – Schley**
- Meg Millard – Schley**
- Joanie Bowden – Schley**
- Allen Johansson – Arcadia**
- Debbie Johansson – Arcadia**
- Nancy Buchanan – Arcadia**
- Brenda McKeel – Arcadia**
- Bobbie Waddell – Arcadia**
- Risa Jarman – Arcadia**
- Charles Roper – Associate**
- Talmage Brown – Associate**
- Melissa Patton – Associate**
- Daniel Jenkins – Associate**
- Troy Futral – Associate**
- Derrick Lewis - Associate**
- Jennifer Tangredi – Guilford**
- Mitch Smith – Ferguson**
- Christy Straughn-Haley – Grantham**
- Dennis Edwards – Grantham**
- Robin Pate-Edwards – Grantham**
- Sandra Shirley – Grantham**
- Cynthia Cox - Associate**
- Russell Angell - Associate**
- Samantha Ledford - Associate**
- Barbara Britt - Associate**
- Frederick Small - Associate**
- Adam Ross - Associate**

NC Grange Adopts Florida

by : Jimmy Gentry



Manatee Grange in Florida is now affiliated with NC Grange. A few years ago, Florida State Grange lost their charter because they have so few Granges. However, there is one active Grange remaining in Florida, and we welcome them. Just as we have been doing with Britton's Neck Grange in South Carolina, Manatee Grange will now pay their dues to us, and we will include their members in our quarterly reports to National Grange. They will have the opportunity to participate in NC Grange activities, and will receive our Grange News. Welcome to all members of Manatee Grange, located near Tampa, Florida.



Welcome

Grange members from Manatee Florida
179 joined NC Grange in December

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| David Andrews | Alexandria Brunner |
| Charlotte Bethany | Joshua Hirsch |
| Greg Bethany | Lillie Hirsch |
| Anthony Bethany | Posbo Holly |
| Lindsey Bethany | Carolyn Kulick-Siddall |
| Joshua Bethany | Cynthia Long |
| Michael Bethany | Rick O'Keefe |
| Barbara Borderieux | Jacqueline Wagner |

NC Grange would like to welcome each one of
you to our Grange Family.



Barnwell Orchards

Proud Recipient of the
2023 National Apple
Grower of the Year

story by : Laurie Barnhart
photos by: Jessica Horton



Riding through the community of Edneyville, North Carolina, on a cold winter morning was a beautiful sight as we passed apple orchard after apple orchard. Apple trees cloaked in a heavy frost look quite regal, almost like a beautiful sculpture that you might see at an art exhibit. Although so green and lush in the spring and summer, they also hold a very special beauty while resting and storing up energy to produce the apple blossoms we are sure to see in the Spring. Such was the view as we drove through Kenny Barnwell's apple orchard and other orchards. Eighty percent of the apples grown in North Carolina are grown in Henderson County.

Writing stories on our Grange farmers is one of the things I enjoy most about my work with the North Carolina Grange. Having grown up in a farming family, I have all the appreciation in the world, not only for the work they do every single day, but also the devotion, commitment and passion that it takes to be successful. None of that is lost on Kenny Barnwell, Edneyville Grange member, who was honored this past summer by the American Fruit Growers Magazine's National Apple Grower of the Year Award. Kenny was the 35th recipient of this award, which is sponsored by US Valent, but only the second recipient from North Carolina.

One of the things that impressed me the most when I read about his award, was the time and energy Kenny has spent not only growing apples but nurturing and advocating for the US apple industry for the past twenty years. Couple that with managing

a 150-acre farm and you've got a motivated and determined farmer! One of the interesting things about Kenny is there are not too many farmers that truly understand and appreciate the importance of developing relationships with not only Congress but the State Legislature. Kenny gets it! Many farmers truly don't have the time, but educating them of the importance of this is significant. When you're in a crisis, and you have a relationship with the legislators that represent you, it sure is nice to be able to pick up the phone, make a call and have someone on the other end that can make a difference.

Kenny's experience with the legislature began when he was in college. At that time, the Ag leadership in the General Assembly was able to get appropriations for the apple industry for research. As time went on, that leadership was not as strong. Kenny realized at that time he needed to become involved and try to make a difference; and that he did. On behalf of the apple industry, it was nothing for him to go to DC several times a year, and make numerous trips to Raleigh to meet with legislators. He recognized the importance of having a champion for protecting specialty crops and our farmland. Kenny told us as we sat around his dining room table and talked, "Make sure the people that represent you know who you are!"

Although a 5th generation farmer, Kenny had no intentions of becoming an apple farmer when he went off to college earning a degree in Biology and Chemistry. Most of us know, however, when you grow up in a farming family, it's hard to shake the love

of the farm out of your system. Kenny worked on the farm for his uncle after finishing school and found out that not only did he like it, but he was pretty good at it. In 1989, he took over the Barnwell family orchard and built it into what it is today—a thriving, cutting edge, top producing apple orchard. Kenny no doubt, is a true visionary.

Kenny is tremendously involved with the ag world. He was a founding member of AgHC (Agribusiness-Henderson County) and was instrumental in starting this organization. He currently serves as board chair. As Kenny told the Henderson Times News, “We need to make sure we protect our farmland. We need to work on protecting specialty crops a little more than we’re doing now.”

As we strolled through Kenny’s apple orchard, he explained using the high density method of growing apples. This method uses far less space than the traditional way of growing apples utilizing only a 3’ x 12’ space as opposed to the traditional method of growing them in a 15’ x 30’ space. This method of growing apples, was first started in Europe. Terence Robinson, a horticulture professor from Cornell, actually introduced this method in the United States. The high density method was his vision of the future in apple production as Kenny explained to us. The advantages are immense and include increased yield, efficient land use, ease of management (especially in pruning), early fruiting, improved quality, and reduced labor costs. The initial cost of planting with the high density method is more expensive, but no doubt it pays off. Kenny’s orchards are a fine example of that. It was very interesting standing between the high density orchards and the older orchards that had been planted in the traditional method. They looked quite different. The high density orchard almost looked like vineyards.

Kenny was very humbled but proud to be the recipient of the Apple Grower Farmer of the Year by *American Fruit Growers Magazine*. As quoted by The Henderson Times Kenny said, “We need to make sure we protect our farmland. We need to work on protecting specialty crops a little more than we’re doing now. Two years ago we became a net importer of specialty crops for the first time in the history of the United States. Wouldn’t you rather have something that is grown in the United States?” I think everyone who knows him can agree that this is a well-deserved honor. Congratulations Barnwell Orchards, you make Edneyville Grange and the North Carolina Grange very proud!



CAPITOL NEWS

by : Laurie Barnhart



The North Carolina General Assembly has been a quiet place since the 2023 Long Session adjourned in the fall. Interim committee meetings have been held, and both the Senate and the House have intermittently convened for mostly no vote sessions. Of course this is to be expected not only because the 2023 Long Session has adjourned, but as always during a Short Session year, it is also an election year. So while adjourned, members that are running for office again and new General Assembly candidates are busy raising money in their districts for their campaign coffers. With the North Carolina Primaries looming close on March 5th there is no time to waste. There are so many races that are unknown. From North Carolina Governor to North Carolina Treasurer to the President of the United States. Nothing is ever for certain, but this election seems more uncertain than those in the past. The North Carolina General Assembly will no doubt look dramatically different no matter what the outcome with many members retiring or they are not running again due to redistricting.

The Iowa Caucus met on January 15th. Former President Trump's takeaway was a huge winning 98 of Iowa's 99 counties. The race was called after two hours. Historically, this caucus is always an interesting event. Iowa's Caucus actually takes the place of a primary which the majority of states hold. It seems to be a very interesting and "old school" way of choosing candidates to run in the General Election. During the caucus those that participate in the process gather together and hold discussions regarding the

candidates and decide who they would like to support. It is quite different than the North Carolina primaries which we have grown accustomed to. One of the biggest differences is caucuses require voters to physically attend certain meetings. As one can imagine this takes a tremendous commitment, and a huge commitment equals low turnout especially in a world



of online registrations, Zoom meetings and remote work occupations. In some state caucuses there has been a movement to allow for more flexibility. Regardless, the Iowa Caucuses have always been worth follow if you are interested in election forecasts of other states. State elections will be held from now until August 20th with Wyoming being the last state to hold primaries.

In North Carolina news, Pierce et al v. NC State Board of Elections et. al has challenged the NC State Senate maps. In early January the 4th Circuit of Appeals ruled that the Plaintiffs that challenged the maps will not be allowed to bypass the trial court to get a preliminary injunction which they had hoped to do. They also will not be able to receive an expedited process. This of course could affect the North Carolina Primary elections. This is only one of three redistricting law suits that have been filed citing a

preliminary injunction to prevent the new maps from being used in 2024.

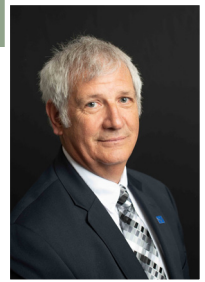
In Congress, on Sunday-January 14th, a deal was reached to avert "a partial" government shutdown. This continuing resolution will extend the budget through March 1st and March 8th. The continuing resolution would fund the government through March 1st and March 8th, according to statements from House Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. The current funding deal, which went into effect in November, funds some federal departments through Jan. 19th, and others through Feb. 2nd.

There is concern that this continuing resolution will thwart the Farm Bill even more.

In a letter to House Democrats, Jeffries said the continuing resolution "maintains funding at the fiscal year 2023 level and is free of partisan poison pill policy changes. For these reasons, I am in strong support of the effort to keep the appropriations process moving forward and avoid a disruptive partial government shutdown." (CBS News)

As the 2024 year rolls along, there is no doubt that there will be a tremendous amount of ongoing political news around the upcoming Primaries and the General Election. Stay tuned and informed with the Legislative Update newsletter every week. If you are not receiving this NC Grange weekly legislative update, please contact me at lbarnhart@ncgrange.com.

Image from visitraleigh.com



2023 BCBSNC AGENT SALES RECOGNITION

NC Grange has received the results for the final quarter of the 2023 BlueCross BlueShield of NC New Membership Enrollment generated by our Grange agents. We are pleased to announce the production award recipients for the September to November quarter for the Under65 Individual Members as well as the Medicare Segment Members. These individuals have done an outstanding job servicing their clients and the NC Grange! We congratulate the following agents for their quarterly production.

Under65 Segment

Agent	Location	# of New Members
Charles H Roper, Jr	Hendersonville	84
Michael D Alessi	Hendersonville	29
Charles R Pruden	Edenton	24
Alicia W Lewis	Murphy	20
Shanna R Bell	North Wilkesboro	15

Honorable Mentions:

Patrick A McBrayer	Southern Pines	12
Sandra I Matthews	Pilot Mountain	10

Medicare Market Segment

Agent	Location	# of New Members
Michael D Alesi	Hendersonville	19
Kimberly R Austin	Monroe	18
Chase R McKelvey	Brevard	9
Patrick A McBrayer	Southern Pines	9
J Crayton Kale	Lincolnton	8
Beverly G Mitchell	Burnsville	8

Honorable Mentions:

Michele T Smith	Durham	6
Chip Pruden	Edenton	6
Timothy W Smith	Mt Olive	6

For an annual recap of agent production, following is the list of our top ten agents in each segment.

Under65 Segment:

The following ten agents produced 55.6% of our total 2023 new BCBSNC membership for this segment.

Agent	Location	# of New Members
Charles H Roper	Hendersonville	293
Charles R Pruden	Edenton	152
Alicia W Lewis	Murphy	116
Michael D Alessi	Hendersonville	115
Kimberly R Austin	Monroe	111
Patrick A McBrayer	Southern Pines	102
Angel P Lawing	Rockwell	82
Shanna R Bell	North Wilkesboro	80
Sandra I Matthews	Pilot Mountain	65
Chase R McKelvey	Brevard	48

Medicare Market Segment:

These top 11 agents produced 53.2% of our total 2023 new BCBSNC Medicare membership.

Agent	Location	# of New Members
Kimberly R Austin	Monroe	96
Kenneth W Ennis	Coats	63
Michael D Alessi	Hendersonville	45
Michele T Smith	Durham	45
Charles. R Pruden	Edenton	40
Beverly G Mitchell	Burnsville	39
Sandra W Barnes	Rockwell	36
Chase R McKelvey	Brevard	32
J Crayton Kale	Lincolnton	29
Barbara Britt	Star	28
Timothy W Smith	Mt Olive	28

Once again, we congratulate these agents on a job well done and give a huge thank you to all our Grange for all they do to make this program a success. When you see one of our agents, please be sure to thank them as well. As always, please contact us if you have any questions about your insurance needs.



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