

GRANGE NEWS



2023 Grange Camp

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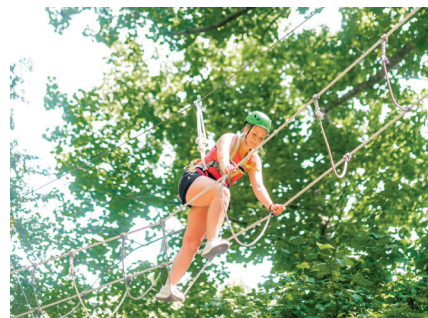
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 21-24 State Convention
- October 12-22 NC State Fair
- November 14-19 National Convention

Cover Image by Jessica Horton of Kayla Laws completing the high ropes course at Eastern 4-H Center.



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 | AGRICULTURE REASEARCH IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL

Did you know that an effort is underway to find a food-based cure for Type 2 Diabetes? What about the effort to eradicate aflatoxins? There is also research to protect stored grains from mold and insects. Have you heard of the Moringa Tree? It is loaded with nutrients that could become beneficial to livestock. I am sure that you have heard of cattle being criticized because of their gaseous emissions of carbon into the atmosphere. Research is underway to reduce these emissions through food intake.

With each crop and forest tree that grows in our state, you can assume that research is underway to increase yields, reduce pests, use fertilizer more efficiently, and more. I should not leave out the tremendous amount of research being done to mitigate climate change.

We depend heavily upon research to find better ways to produce food on less acres of land. This is critical for feeding a growing population. The new findings help producers to operate more efficiently and improve their net income.

I have had occasions during which I listened to presentations by researchers at NC State as well as NC A&T State to learn what they have been working on. I will admit to you that the science under which they operate is usually over my head, but the end

result is something that will be beneficial to our society. Much of the work being done will ultimately lead to better health through more nutritious and safe food.

As an organization that advocates for agriculture, we always support adequate funding for research. This funding comes from a variety of sources. A large portion of funding comes from the federal government, some through industry, and some through state efforts. In North Carolina we have the Agriculture Foundation, managed by NC State University, that funds a variety of projects. We also have a Tobacco Research Commission that funds tobacco research.

I completely understand that the happenings in research might not cross your mind every day. It seems far removed from us in universities with highly trained researchers. Just bear in mind that the results of research can have a huge impact on us in a good way. Just this morning I read an article about CRISPR gene editing technology. Yes, it is way over my head. This particular project attempts to enhance the growth of poplar trees and improve the wood structure. If this is successful, it could lead to more efficient paper production and even diapers! We wear diapers after we come into this world, and many of us wear them before we leave. This is a very close to home impact through research!



CHAPLAINS CORNER

by : LaRue Tart

THE KEYS

I must admit it. I stay so preoccupied inside my brain that I have been misplacing things lately. I try to be organized and put things where I think I will remember where they are! Typically, things go in a drawer, a box, the closet, a file, my purse, or maybe on a hanger. But somehow when I need it, I can't remember where I put it or where to find it.

Keys are seemingly the worst for me lately. I have a particular drawer with lots of keys, some labeled, some not, some with rings, some not, and plenty of free company rings. Some of them are old, and I don't even know what they unlock. Admit it, you probably have some too!

Anyway, I recently bought a new purse after getting rid of several old ones. It has several pockets to put my stuff in. I wanted to carry my new purse to a singing engagement that I was attending. When my ride came to pick me up, I grabbed my key, locked the front door, and hastily dropped the key into my purse. After getting home later that evening, I looked desperately in those pockets for the key to unlock the door. I knew I had a hidden emergency key nearby, but I felt sure I had the house key in this new purse. I was frustrated to the point that I said, "Lord, help me. Only you know where this key is to unlock my house." He quietly told me, "Try the front pocket." Sure enough, it was there. Thank the Lord!

This incident reminded me that to unlock the desperate times in our human houses, we should not try to do things on our own, but trust God first. Give God the keys. He always knows where we are hurting and what's happening in our lives and knows what key to use. He holds the key to receiving an answer to prayer, to making important decisions, and even to unlocking a blessing or desire. We need to listen to His voice and follow His leading. When we spend more time with our Lord daily and give Him our concerns, our discernment will be refined, and we will be drawn into a deeper relationship with Him. Whenever we have a need or desire for anything; for better health, less tension, more financial stability, wisdom for making decisions, or whatever is going on in our lives; release the keys of self and give them to God. Put Jesus in your "front" pocket. "Seek the kingdom of God first, and His righteousness, and He will give you everything you need," (Matthew 6:33). Use the key of His amazing grace remembering, "I once was lost, but now I'm found."

God promises, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be lost in heaven," (Matthew 16:19). Give God the keys. Let His son Jesus unlock your house and open your heart to peace.

LOCAL GRANGE NEWS

FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Cyndee VanSweeden & Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange has had a busy summer! In June, members hosted an ice cream social at Boomer Ferguson Elementary School to celebrate the end of the school year.

Two active members of our Grange were honored with Quilts of Valor this year. Brian DeCann and Dick Martine both served bravely in combat in the Vietnam War and were given beautiful red, white, and blue quilts during ceremonies held at the Whippoorwill Academy and Village in June and November. The quilts were lovingly made by the Watauga County Quilts of Valor Chapter. The men were each wrapped in the comfort of their handmade quilts during the presentation.

Our Grange's July program was held at Growing Faith Farms in Boomer, owned by new members Tina and Jo Angott. During a tour of the farm, Tina taught us about growing flowers, especially sunflowers. She showed us the fields where the flowers are growing and talked about their farm's camping sites, their glamping program on the mountain top, and the hiking trails. They graciously provided flowerpots for members to paint with sunflowers planted in them. We also held our annual dinner social on July 20 for fellowship with each other.



Middle Left: Tina Angott. Bottom Left: Pam McCarrick, Brian DeCann, and Paul VanSweeden display Brian's quilt. Bottom Right: Dick Martine.



2023 EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

by : Jessica Horton & Jennie Gentry



Grangers representing multiple states gathered together in early August to participate in the Eastern Regional Conference. This year the event was held in Mount Olive, North Carolina, and was hosted by Jason Davis, the Assistant Dean in the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Mount Olive.

The conference began on Friday evening at the Kornegey Farm, one of the three farms operated by the University of Mount Olive. First on the agenda was day one of making homemade pickles. David Allen, NC Grange Vice President and Corriher Grange member, led the activity which started by slicing cucumbers and soaking them overnight. Attendees then enjoyed get acquainted activities followed by Grange Baseball, a trivia competition for youth and Juniors.

Saturday morning, attendees ventured to Holly Grove Farms where Grange member Debbie Craig and her daughter, Brittany, led tours of their goat farm and cheese operation. They have approximately 1000 goats and are hoping to get up to 1400 soon. They make fresh chevre for local businesses and sell retail in their gift shop on the farm. Everyone loved seeing the goats and tasting the different flavors of cheese. Many purchased cheese for snacking the rest of the weekend and to take back home.

After returning to the university, the group participated in a service project making rope toys and adoption bandanas for an animal shelter. Attendees were then greeted with a huge lunch provided by Grantham and Brogden Granges. Members of these Granges served food and drinks and socialized with the group. The delicious meal and service was greatly appreciated.

The afternoon program brought informative workshops about hemp, recycling, and personality profiling using the Enneagram. Attendees were also welcomed with an ice cream truck to take a break and help beat the heat. Just before dinner, everyone finished day two of making pickles by filling them in jars. Once sealed, the jars were ready to be taken home!

Saturday evening held the regional contests for sign-a-song and public speaking. Asheton Medlin won the prepared speech contest. She and Taylor Rogers also won the group sign-a-song contest. Both will compete in these contests at the National Convention this fall in Niagara Falls, New York.

One highlight of the weekend was watching NC Grange member Autumn Whitaker as she helped lead workshops and activities. Autumn has been traveling across the country leading youth and young adult activities as a member of the National Grange Youth Team.

Before departing on Sunday morning, attendees took part in a worship service led by NC Grange Chaplain LaRue Tart. It was a great weekend of fellowship, and everyone went home with several jars of homemade pickles to enjoy later.





CREATING
SUPERHEROES
AT GRANGE CAMP
by : Jennie Gentry

This year's Grange Camp was held July 9 – 15 in Columbia, NC, at the Eastern 4-H Center which sits beside the beautiful Albemarle Sound. It was an awesome week together where campers learned about leadership, team building, and the Grange through fun activities. This truly was another incredible week of personal growth for our campers.

"The Power Within" was this year's camp theme, created by our Youth Leadership Team. This theme was used to encourage campers to recognize their own unique "superpowers" within themselves so they can impact others. The team incorporated this lesson daily with special messages that taught campers how they can use strength, perseverance, positivity, integrity, and love to inspire those around them.

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed a variety of daily activities such as kayaking, group games, ropes courses, giant swing, gaga ball, crabbing, wall climbing, swimming, archery, team building, leadership, and more. They also participated in a service project by painting wooden ornaments for nursing home residents. Those will be packaged and delivered this fall at our annual convention.

The week included the traditional "Battle By the Bay" competitions in which groups competed in a wide variety of activities with one group emerging as the week's champions. The winning team for youth this year was group Hope, led by counselors Anna Liles, Montana Riley, and Cole Settle, and by Youth Team members Asheton Medlin and Jacob Roquet. The

Grange Camp is, by far, the favorite event of the year for our youth and Juniors. I hear this from them often and felt the same way when I was their age growing up in the Grange. This year marked our 77th year of camp, which absolutely amazes me. Sometimes I cannot help but wonder what magical things happened at Grange Camp in the 1940s to kickstart such an amazing program. However, I really do not have to look back that far because the same amazing things are happening today, and the campers are what makes it magical.



Blue Group led by counselors Sadora Hayes, Charles Howerton and Lillee Pinkerton, and Junior Team member Lucy Anderson, was named the Junior champions.

After daily activities, campers joined each evening for camp's traditional events. Sunday night brought fun get-acquainted games led by the Youth Team. Monday night held our famous Great Grange Challenge where campers raced in a round of messy team building activities on the sports field. Imagine jumping in a pool of slime; getting water dumped on your head; playing water balloon volleyball; spitting watermelon seeds onto a target; and throwing cheeseballs to stick on someone's head covered in shaving cream. You can see why this is a long-time favorite activity for our campers!

On Tuesday night, campers enjoyed the annual Talent Show and "Superhero" costume party. The event was emceed by the Youth Team who opened the show with a theatrical dance routine, a parody to a superhero musical that made the crowd laugh. More fun was had the next evening at our traditional Skit Night when each



Left to right: Carter Settle as The Hulk, Asheton Medlin as Spiderman, Jacob Roquet as Iron Man, Karly Denning as Captain America, Taylor Rogers as Thor and Abby Gentry as Black Widow





group performs hilarious skits. I am always amazed at how much our campers get into their skits and perform them so confidently.

Thursday evening, campers demonstrated their leadership skills at Model Grange Night. State Youth Officers performed their duties by opening and closing the Grange meeting in ritual form. Our State Youth President, Asheton Medlin of Bushy Fork Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Clayton Cameron and Abby Gentry leading the drill as the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward. The Junior Officers also performed the Junior Opening and Closing of the Grange led by State Junior President Lucy Anderson. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Raegan Hartsell and Jack Spratling. All officers truly stood out, demonstrating incredible leadership skills. The evening also included square dancing, a long-time tradition at camp!

Our Awards Ceremony on Friday evening is also a tradition of Grange Camp. This is the night we honor our campers with awards and celebrate the week. Each Junior Camper receives a trophy representing a superlative chosen by their group counselors. Counselors also selected special awards that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors Award was given to Zeke Simmons and Olivia Brennan. The Junior Director's Award was presented to Sarah Anderson and Raegan Hartsell. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to Laci Liles and Isabelle Welborn, and the highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Lucy Anderson and Levi Liles. Noah Mackie and Gentry Wilson were crowned this year's Junior Camp Prince and Princess.

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives which were selected by their peers. Carter Settle and Asheton Medlin were crowned this year's Grange Camp King and Queen. (The full list of youth superlatives is included with this article.) Counselors also selected special youth awards that will be presented at the State Convention this fall. The Counselors' Award was given to Carson Lackey and Kayla Laws, and the State Youth Director's Award went to Jaiden McDougald and Anna Keeter. The Grange Leadership Award was given to Jacob Roquet and Asheton Medlin while the highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Carter Settle and Taylor Rogers. The evening ended with dancing, a special candlelight ceremony, and a slideshow of the week full of pictures taken by Jessica Horton.





Isabelle Welborn, and Gentry Wilson. These young leaders did such an amazing job.

Our incredible Grange Counselors also worked very hard and attributed to the week's success. We thank them for volunteering their time to help make a difference in our campers' lives. Without their nurturing, loving hearts, camp would not be the amazing camp that it is. Special thanks are also given to all our local Granges and individuals who helped sponsor and pay for campers to attend this inspirational week.

Grange Camp is such a unique, life-changing experience for campers whose lives are positively impacted in so many special ways. Campers develop very close friendships, with many referring to those friends as their "second family." Camp gives kids a place where they gain confidence, break out of their shells, build relationships and work together. Most importantly, it is a place where campers can completely be themselves and learn how to be superheroes in other people's lives.

It was a very special night to end our incredible week together.

The week could not have been made possible without the excellent leadership and creativity of our 2023 Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. Made up of Karly Denning, Abby Gentry, Asheton Medlin, Taylor Rogers, Jacob Roquet and Carter Settle, this team truly stood out as outstanding, charismatic leaders who made a strong, lasting impact on our campers.

This team also assisted this year's Junior Leadership Team who helped lead camp activities such as vespers, flag raising and mealtime songs. They cheered on their teams during every challenge, encouraged their peers and supported their counselors. The Junior Team this year was made up of Lucy Anderson, Noah Mackie,



JUNIOR GRANGERS AT GRANGE CAMP

by : Emily Hartsell

Another wonderful week of Grange Camp is in the books! This year we had a total of 46 Juniors which is the largest number of Juniors I have had to attend camp since taking on the position as State Junior Director. With so many new faces, thanks to all of the amazing counselors that were able to come and help for the week.

These campers had the most amazing week. They made new friends, reconnected with old friends, learned team building skills, supported each other while climbing the wall, enjoyed kaya- k - ing, and cheered their teammates on while playing gaga ball and 9-square. The list of activities is long, and the memories they made at Grange Camp will last a lifetime.

Our campers also enjoyed the traditional Battle by the Bay competitions. They competed in the Great Grange Challenge, Skit Night, climbing the wall in the fastest time, kick ball, Kahoot (Grange Trivia), and even best bunk. Each of the four Junior groups worked together in every challenge to be named as the champions at the end of the week. This year, the blue group was named the winners.

We had four amazing Junior Leadership Team Members: Lucy Anderson, Noah Mackie, Isabelle Welborn, and Gentry Wilson. These junior leaders helped lead their groups during the day, were leaders in their cabins, presented positive quotes during flag raising each morning, and ended the day with a vesper. They helped the Youth Team members lead songs during mealtimes as well. We were so proud of these four for being great role models and for exemplifying such great leadership.

During Model Grange, Raegan Hartsell, Lady Assistant Steward, and Jack Spratling, Assistant Steward, led our Junior Officers in an outstanding drill. This year's Junior Grange Officers were President, Lucy Anderson; Vice President, Gentry Wilson; Chaplain, Isabelle Welborn; Program Director, Chloe Laws; Steward, Noah Mackie; Secretary, Laci Liles; Treasurer, Kinsley Eudy; Gatekeeper, Levi Liles; Ceres, Gracie Brennan; Pomona, Isabella Blake; Flora, Paisley Walters; Executive Committee, Sarah Anderson, Ahnika Blake, Brooklyn Blake, Anya Willis, and Wiley Wilson. Vivian Nappier and Olivia Brennan lead the Drill Team and did a fantastic job. A big thank you goes to Lisa Anderson for working so hard to create and teach both of these marches.

Each year, our counselors select some of our top Juniors for several special awards. This year, the Hunt Best Camper Award went to Lucy Anderson and Levi Liles. We had two campers who stood



out as outstanding young leaders, so the Grange Leadership Award went to Laci Liles and Isabelle Welborn. The Counselors Award was given to Olivia Brennan and Zeke Simmons. This year we added the Junior Director Award, and it was presented to Sarah Anderson and Raegan Hartsell. These campers will receive their awards at the State Convention in September.

We are all so proud of every Junior camper for making this an incredible year of Grange Camp and already look forward to seeing them again next year.





CAMP SUPERLATIVES

King: Carter Settle
Queen: Asheton Medlin

Junior Prince: Noah Mackie
Junior Princess: Gentry Wilson

Best All Around:
Taylor Rogers
Jacob Roquet

Best Role Model:

Abby Gentry
Harvey Reyburn

Grange Spirit Award:

Cade Howerton
Caroline Barber

Mr. & Mrs. Congeniality:

Kayla Laws
Braden Eudy

Best Personality:

Anna Keeter
Jaiden McDougald

Unsung Hero:

Nettie Hartley
Will Larabee

Most Outstanding Leader:

Karly Denning
Carson Lackey

Most Unforgettable:

Rylee Casey
Lukas Shay

Most Fun To Be Around:

Anna Hahn
Michael Wilson

Best 1st Year Camper

Christina Burris
Blythe Marshall

President's Best Camper Award:

Taylor Rogers
Carter Settle

Grange Leadership Award:

Asheton Medlin (Y)
Jacob Roquet (Y)
Laci Liles (J)
Isabelle Welborn (J)

Hunt Best Camper (Junior):

Lucy Anderson
Levi Liles

Counselor Award (Junior):

Olivia Brannan
Zeke Simmons

Junior Director's Award: (Junior)

Sarah Anderson
Reagan Hartsell

The North Carolina General Assembly had been rather quiet since the July 4th holiday. Leadership delayed formal work until August 17 when they convened to override the last six bills that Governor Cooper vetoed earlier. Closed door budget negotiations continued among House and Senate Leadership during this period of no vote sessions. Although North Carolina's 2023-24 biennial budget expired on July 1, fortunately, unlike Congress, North Carolina doesn't shut down. Government spending automatically continues at current levels until another budget is passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Currently, the General Assembly is expected to pass the budget and additional legislation by mid-September following a short recess. The budget vote is anticipated to take place mid-September. They should be returning in October to redistrict Congressional and State Senate and House district lines. It is probable that the 2023 Long Session will not adjourn until late October. However, this could change.

Below is a list of the bills vetoed by Governor Cooper and overridden by the House and Senate.

- S41 Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections **Overridden**
- S20 Care for Women, Children, and Families Act **Overridden**
- S364 Nondiscrimination & Dignity in State Work **Overridden**
- S299 Reimburse Late Audit Costs with Sales Tax Revenue **Overridden**
- S329 Retail Installment Sales Act Amendments **Overridden**
- S331 Consumer Finance Act Amendments **Overridden**
- H750 Address Environmental, Social and Governance Factors **Overridden**
- S582 North Carolina Farm Act of 2023 **Overridden**
- S49 Parents' Bill of Rights **Overridden**
- H574 Fairness in Women's Sports Act **Overridden**
- H808 Gender Transition/Minors Vetoed **Overridden**
- H488 Code Council Reorganization & Various Code Amendments **Overridden**
- H618 Charter School Review Board **Overridden**
- H219 Charter School Omnibus **Vetoed**

In addition to the bill overrides and budget negotiations, the House took up and passed SB 747, Elections Law Changes. Below captures the changes.

- **Treat Early Voting More Like In-Person Voting:** Ballots cast during early voting would be retrievable, and the ballot number or identifier would not be a public record. There will also now be an established process for counting ballots cast during early voting: if the ballots are counted electronically, the count would begin at the time the polls close. If the ballots are paper ballots counted manually, the count would begin at the same time as mail-in absentee ballots.
- **Prohibit Private Funding for Elections Administration:** The State Board of Elections and county boards of elections would be prohibited from accepting private monetary donations or in-kind contributions for the purpose of administering elections or employing individuals on a temporary basis.
- **Changes to Law Governing Poll Observers:** These sections of the bill make several changes to current law which allow poll observers to roam elections sites more freely, but provide direction for establishing rules to prevent any interference by the observers.
- **Changes to Same-Day Registration:** Anyone who registers on the same day as voting must now cast a retrievable ballot, which allows elections officials to more easily locate the ballot to nullify it if the voter's address or identity cannot be verified after registering.
- **Absentee Ballot Changes:** Eliminates the three-day grace period for absentee ballots, so any absentee ballot would need to be received by election day to be counted.
- **Removal of Non-Citizens from Voter Rolls:** Establishes a process for sharing information between the clerk of superior court and the State Board of Elections so the Board can remove anyone from the voter rolls who has been determined to be ineligible for jury duty because they are not a citizen of the United States.
- **Signature Verification Pilot Program:** In earlier versions of the bill, this was a mandate for signature verification, but in the final version it was changed to a pilot program for the 2024 primary election. (Courtesy of Connect C-Ag Alliance)

From the Hill

Legislation and news in DC has been far from quiet during July. Bipartisan legislation was introduced in the Senate to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive coverage for cancer detection technologies. This is an issue that has been ongoing in Congress and one which the NC Grange supports and lobbies for. If passed, this bill would provide Medicare



coverage for early screening of cancer known as Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED). This would give coverage to Medicare patients of the latest technology to detect multiple types of cancer even before they are showing symptoms. This bipartisan bill has also been introduced in the House.

On June 29, the US Supreme Court struck Affirmative Action in college admissions. Affirmative Action was put in place in the 1960's which declared that race could not be a factor in college admissions. This will force institutions of higher learning to seek other ways to achieve diversity. It overturns cases that reach back as far as 45 years in invalidating admission plans at Harvard and UNC. These two schools are the nation's oldest private and public colleges.

The current US Farm Bill, enacted in 2018, expires this year on September 30. Although close to the finish line, legislators, commodity groups, nutritional and public health officials as well as advocates for conservation and rural development are just a few of the many groups that have a stake in what provisions are in the 2023 Farm Bill and are still jockeying to make sure their interests are being included in the bill. Although there is no fixed format for the bill, the 2018 Farm Bill is comprised of twelve titles, described below and explained by The Council of State Governments.

Title I – Commodities. Provides farm payments when crop prices or revenues decline for major commodity crops, including wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, and rice. Includes disaster programs to help livestock and tree fruit producers manage production losses due to natural disasters. Other support includes margin insurance for dairy, marketing quotas, minimum price guarantees and import quotas for sugar.

Title II – Conservation. Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management practices through various working lands programs, as well as changes in land use through land retirement and easement programs.

Title III – Trade. Supports U.S. agricultural export programs and export credit guarantee programs, as well as international food aid programs that provide emergency and nonemergency foreign food aid. Other provisions address issues related to World Trade Organization obligations.

Title IV – Nutrition. Provides nutrition assistance for low-income households through programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) and emergency food assistance programs. Also supports food distribution in schools. NOTE: Title IV does not authorize Child Nutrition Programs, which are authorized under a separate process.

Title V – Credit. Offers direct government loans to farmers/ranchers and guarantees on private lenders' loans. Sets eligibility rules and policies.

Title VI – Rural Development. Supports rural business and community development programs. Establishes planning, feasibility assessments and coordination with other local, state and federal programs. Programs include grants and loans for infrastructure, economic development, broadband, and telecommunications.

Title VII – Research, Extension and Related Matters. Offers a wide range of agricultural research and extension programs that expand academic knowledge about agriculture and food and help farmers and ranchers become more efficient, innovative, and productive.

Title VIII – Forestry. Supports forestry management programs run by the USDA Forest Service.

Title IX – Energy. Encourages the development of farm and community renewable energy systems through grants, loan guarantees and feedstock procurement initiatives. Also facilitates the production, marketing and processing of advanced biofuels and biofuel feedstocks, as well as research, education and demonstration programs.

Title X – Horticulture. Supports specialty crops — fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and floriculture and ornamental products — through initiatives that include market promotion, plant pest and disease prevention, and research. Also provides support to certified organic agricultural production and locally produced foods.

Title XI – Crop Insurance. Amends the permanently authorized federal crop insurance program.

Title XII – Miscellaneous. Covers other types of programs including livestock and poultry production and limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers.

Congress currently is on August recess but will reconvene on September 5 following the Labor Day holiday.



GOTCHA COVERED

by : Mark Davis

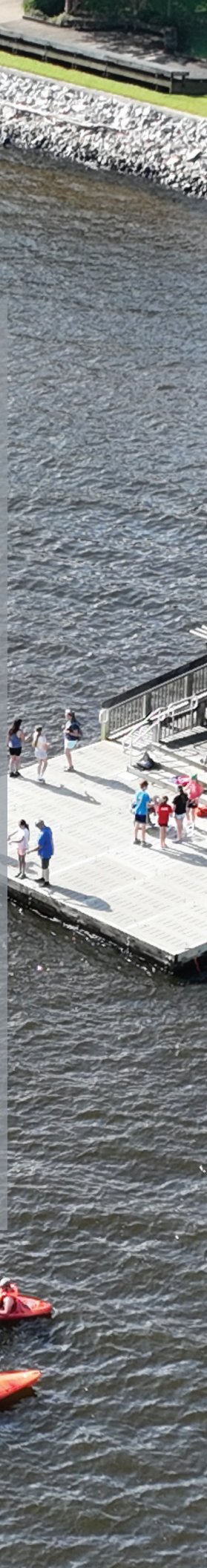
WHAT'S OUR ROLE?

I typically attend Grange Camp for a couple of days to obtain drone pictures of our campers taking part in the various activities. This year the weather cooperated, and we actually were able to get aerial photos of the bus as it arrived on Sunday bringing many campers into the Eastern 4-H Conference Center. I also was able to capture youth participating in the Great Grange Challenge on Monday evening. Several different stations are set up with various challenges such as the water balloon toss, pass the water cup, fill a tower full of holes with water, cheeseball toss into the shaving cream hat that a kid is wearing, watermelon seed spitting, and several other. Needless to say, the kids had a great time, and the camp staff even joined our youth in the extravaganza of fun.

Tuesday and Wednesday's aerial photos included more camp activities such as crabbing, the climbing tower, group swim, kayaking, and other field activities. This brings us to the point of this article, "What is Our Role?" On Tuesday night after returning emails and downloading the pictures of the day, I strolled over to the Conference Center where campers were holding their annual talent show. One of the most impressive things about this event was the supporting "role" that all the youth exhibited for every camper sharing their talent. It did not matter if that young person was just starting to develop their raw talent or if that talent was already in a refined state, all were encouraged with exuberance during and after the performance! I observed youth singing along, swaying to the music, and heard whoops and hollers as some danced with thunderous applause at their conclusions. Our youth presented themselves as great, positive role models for their peers by encouraging them to stretch above and beyond and continue to develop and refine their individual talents!

The example set by these youth caused a self-reflection on my part and made me ask of myself, "What kind of role am I portraying to my family, our Grange Members, our Grange Agents, as well others that I come into contact with?" I want to be like those youth and encourage others to stretch out and reach their full potential and share with them any words, or tools within my resources, to help them achieve their goals and dreams. We all have our own talents, and I will challenge you to use your talents to help someone else reach their dreams. While instructing or serving on various boards, at times I have pulled out my set of keys to make the point that everyone in the room had their own set of keys, and most likely none of us have many, if any, of the same keys. So, if someone needs to get into a room or area that I may have a key for, or visa-versa, we can utilize each other's keys to unlock those locks to enable us to stride toward our goal.

The role of our NC Grange Agents is to share their "keys" with our members to unlock various needs by providing the necessary tools and encouragement to help our membership reach their financial and legacy goals for themselves, their families, and the community!



NC GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VISITS THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT OLIVE

by : Vinnie Duncan



The NC Grange Board of Directors met on Tuesday, June 6, in Mount Olive, NC. Our meeting was held at the Kornegay Student Farm located about 10 minutes east of main campus. This is one of the 3 farms operated by the University of Mount Olive.



Jason Davis, a Westbrook granger and Assistant Dean in the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, welcomed the group to the farm. Following the business meeting, Board members toured the farm. Tim Warren, also a Westbrook granger and Assistant Director for Facilities Operations, along with Jason provided the narrative. Board members enjoyed tasting blackberries under the high tunnel and observed plantings of blueberries, corn, and sweet potatoes. Several plots of wildflowers provide for pollinators as the farm expands its beehives. Goats, sheep, and chickens reside on the farm. Following the tour, the Board enjoyed a box lunch provided by the University.





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PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID

In Memoriam

<i>Jane Zimmerman*</i>	<i>Arcadia</i>
<i>Henley Teard</i>	<i>Edneyville</i>
<i>Jean Ferguson</i>	<i>Beaufort County</i>

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

Psalm 118:28
** 50 Year Member*

Welcome

Laurel Harcum – Patterson
 Raymond Harcum – Patterson
 Lori Blackledge – Patterson
 David Freeze – Patterson
 Caleb Donor – Patterson
 Melissa Donor – Patterson
 Shannon Jackson – Mingo
 Shawn Stone – Mingo
 Melissa Stone - Mingo

