

GRANGE NEWS

GRANGE CAMP 2022

BASED ON A
TRUE STORY



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15-18

State Convention

November 15-19

National Convention

STATE OFFICERS

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	David Allen
Program Director	Bobbie Dellinger
Steward	Barden Culbreth
Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	LaRue Tart
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Greeter	Philip Duncan
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Lily Hayes
Flora	Janice Wilcox

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	Melanie Hudson
	John Crawford
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President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	David Allen
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Treasurer	Julia Stack
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Membership Director	Katie Greene
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Sharon Underwood
Publications Director	Jessica Horton



Cover Image by Mark Davis of Jacob Roquet climbing the wall 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

What if you ran a business in which you had no control over the price of your product? You cannot hire enough local workers as labor for your business. The cost of production continues to increase, but the revenue you receive does not increase accordingly. Your product could be ruined because of unfortunate circumstances. You borrow money to be able to make the product, but if it is ruined you still have to repay the loan. Certain groups are criticizing you because of what you do and would love to put you out of business. If you are running such a business as this, you are farming.

I admire those who farm because they are feeding the rest of us. They are huge risk-takers because weather can make their crop, or destroy it. When they invest in the crop at the beginning of each season, there is no guarantee that it will pay off at harvest time. Fortunately, there is some measure of protection through crop insurance and government programs. But the best result is a productive crop and a healthy market.

The livestock industry has really come under fire by activist groups who do not like the growing conditions. They accuse producers of abusing their animals, they accuse farmers of ruining the neighborhood because of odors, and they accuse farmers of harming the environment. Some activists do not consume meat and want to put animal producers out of business so that no one can eat meat. Some prey on farms hoping to video something that they can use against them. I have no doubt that there may be an occasional bad actor, but for the most part, farmers take their obligations seriously. They

take good care of their animals and crops and do their best to protect the environment. They live on their farms and do not want to take any actions that would be detrimental to their own healthy living, and they have high regard for their neighbors.

Did you know that agriculture is also being blamed for climate change? The latest figure I saw from the USDA is that 11.2% of all carbon emissions are from agriculture. In the scheme of things this is a low percentage, but a lot of emphasis is being placed on farms becoming zero net producers of carbon. Much research is in process to determine how to accomplish this, but I would venture to say that many of our farms in NC are already at zero net carbon. Remember, the very crops and forests grown are removing carbon from the atmosphere.

There are a lot of challenges, but as long as farmers can make a profit, it is a wonderful way of life. I grew up farming but did not remain on the farm. I chose a different path. But there have been many times that I have thought of how wonderful it would have been to raise my daughters on the farm. It is gratifying to be part of an organization that advocates for agriculture. We must protect agriculture from policies that could be damaging and support policy that is favorable. This is one of the strong points of NC Grange with Laurie Barnhart leading our efforts in government affairs. It is a never-ending process that requires a lot of effort to keep up with new developments. I am proud of our legislative efforts which will continue as one of my priorities.



GRANTHAM GRANGE

by : Joyce Hood

On May 23, 2022, Grantham Grange held its Annual Pastor's Appreciation Dinner at Selah Christian Church with a covered dish dinner. This is the first covered dish meal we have had in two years so everyone went all out, and we had a lot of good food! The event was attended by 50 Grange members and 25 guests. Nine pastors and their families from the area attended.

Sherwood Williford presented a program on the history of Grantham and Brogden Granges and the NC State Grange. He was assisted by Sherry Granbury from the Wayne County Public Library and Linda Crawford who created a display of maps, pictures and other Grange artifacts. Mr. Williford also paid tribute to past Grange leaders Lloyd Massey and Bobby Crawford. As part of the event, membership applications were available, and guests were invited to join the Grange. Pastors were given handouts and a Grange hat, and all who were present received pens furnished by the State Grange.

Pictured front row: Rev. Walter and Peggy Sloan, Faith FWB Church; Rev. Franklin and Judy Lane, Black Jack Grove FWB Church; Rev. Frank and Sandra Purvis, Eureka Christian Church; Rev. Donald and Penny Massey, Manley Grove Pentecostal Holiness Church. Back row: Bishop Breen and Joy Smith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Rev. Robert and Pam Ellis, Falling Creek Baptist Church; Rev. Dave and Stacy Fishman, Trinity Missionary Church; Rev. Blane Smith, Dudley Christian Church; Rev. Patrick, Jennifer and Luke Muston, Selah Christian Church.



TO OUR NEWEST GRANGE MEMBERS!

Kevin Grady - Grantham
Bobby Joe Whitfield - Grantham
Julie Cotton Whitfield - Grantham
Karen Nethercutt - Grantham
Pam Silver - Grantham
Ken Andrews - Schley
Joe Angott - Ferguson
Tina Angott - Ferguson
David Baker - Ferguson
Dylan Grissom - St. John's
Justin Harrison - Junior - St. John's
Denise Terry - Old Richmond
Della Potter - Westbrook
Mary Lee - Westbrook
Lynn Swian - Little Mountain Grange
Karyn Pennington - Patterson
Bo Pennington - Patterson
Maggoe Pennington - Patterson
Rick Burleson - Patterson
Lisa Burleson - Patterson
Hannah McDonald - Patterson
Sam McDonald - Patterson
Jacob Ritchie - Corriher
Mack King - Corriher
Sarah King - Corriher
Bellagrace King - Junior - Corriher
Mark Nelson - Corriher
Margaret Nelson - Corriher



FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange is giving its full support to the new Wilkes Fresh Mobile Market that comes to the community once a week. We are also promoting the market to our community so that more people take advantage of this wonderful new venture. The program supports 15 local farmers and helps communities that do not have grocery stores by offering easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables. We are very excited to have this new program and the positive benefits it will have on our community.

VILLEWORTH GRANGE

by : Jessica Horton

After a late start on the garden, 36 tomato plants finally made it into the ground. Big beefs, Sun Golds and Sweet 100 set their first fruits in mid July, and by early August the first container was donated to Angel's & Sparrows Community Table. A mix of Sweet 100s and Sun Golds will dress salads served to those in need!



NEW SECRETARY

by : Jimmy Gentry

Barden Culbreth from Capitol Grange in Raleigh has been appointed as NC State Grange Secretary following the resignation of Deb Welch. He currently serves as President of Capitol Grange. He is employed by Randolph Cloud & Associates, an advocacy firm located in Raleigh. Barden has been instrumental in getting grants for NC Grange and has led us to involvement with health care advocacy and affiliation in the We Work for Health coalition. We look forward to Barden's service.



It has been a quiet few weeks at the North Carolina General Assembly following the adjournment of the short session on July 1 just prior to the July 4th Holiday. The resolution, however, directed members to reconvene on July 26 when they could possibly take up Governor Cooper's vetoes. They will return monthly for possible mini-sessions on any issues that may arise with redistricting or election related legislation.

On July 11, General Assembly members, staffers, lobbyists and government liaisons breathed a sigh of relief when Gov. Cooper signed the bi-partisan 2022-23 \$27.9 billion budget bill just hours before the deadline. The House passed the bill 82 to 25, and it was passed by the Senate 36 to 8. Although the budget was passed and signed in 2021, the adjustments and additional appropriations that were added during the 2022 short session have now become part of the budget.

Of course the final budget covers a multitude of additional appropriations from the budget that was signed last year during the 2021 Long Session. The Grange was successful in lobbying for an additional \$1.6 million recurring funds for NC A&T State University to provide funds to support the matching requirements of federal funds allocated to land-grant institutions, as well as an additional \$200,000 for the university's Center for Energy Research & Technology. Below is a recap of appropriations the Grange lobbied for as well as other bills that passed that are of interest to Grange members.

The Medicaid Expansion Bill was a source of contention between the House and Senate this year. The Senate passed the bill; however, the House refused to take the bill up. Instead, they passed a bill that would require a study of the issue and then a vote could possibly be taken in December. It is fairly certain that a bill will be passed at some point since a large majority of members have voiced their support.

The 2022 Farm Act was passed by the Senate and the House with the following highlights of interest:

- Provide that a building used primarily for storage of agricultural commodities or products or storage and use of materials for agricultural purposes is considered a farm building for purposes of the building code, regardless of whether the building is located on the same property where the agricultural commodities or products were produced. The building must be surrounded by at least 60 feet of open space and be placarded as "Ag Exempt."
 - Clarify that for purposes of county zoning, a building or structure that is used solely for the storage of cotton, peanuts, or sweet potatoes, or any of the byproducts of those commodities, is a bona fide farm purpose.
 - Direct the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission to study whether to establish a
- Cont. Page 19

Hello, Grange friends! How are you doing collecting school supplies? As you know, the State Grange Community Service Project for 2022 is giving support to schools in need in your own communities and supporting Tools4Schools on the state level at the State Grange Convention in September. Please continue to collect items for your local schools and to bring to the convention. On Saturday morning of convention, a special guest from Tools4schools will be present to accept our donations. For more information, you can visit their website at www.wakeed.org/tools4schools.

I do want to offer a suggestion for all our Granges. Plan your community service projects for the years early and include something that will support local schools. You can brainstorm with your Grange or community service committee on other project ideas to benefit schools. Talk to teachers about their school's needs as well. We are helping students and teachers this year by donating school supplies. However, consider other ways your Grange can honor and encourage our hard-working teachers.

Each year, teachers are given special recognition with a week entitled "Teacher Appreciation Week." The next one is May 7, 2023. However, teachers can be honored any time of the year. Your Grange could play a vital role in celebrating and thanking local teachers. Honor them with a special breakfast, snacks, gift cards, an ice cream social, or handwritten notes of appreciation. I am sure your Granges have done some wonderful projects for your schools. Please let me know more about those projects so that I can share them with all our Granges. For example, Ferguson Grange holds an annual Ice Cream Social for our community's elementary school at the end of the year. We have also built a raised bed and a fenced garden, sponsored bingo game fund raisers, and supported other school activities.

Thank you for collecting items for this year's project. As a reminder, these need to be brand new school items. Monetary donations to Tools4Schools are also greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing what you have collected at September's convention.



NEW BIRTH

It's an exciting time for our family right now. We have a new birth announcement. Our son, John Tart III and our beautiful daughter in law, Jessica, who are Grange members themselves, gave us a precious new granddaughter, Eliza Dove Tart. She was born on July 11, 2022, at 4:44 p.m., coming into the world weighing seven pounds and six ounces at 20.5 inches long. Their firstborn! Her name is from both ancestry sides of the family. We are elated and welcome this miracle gift from God. Oh, how blessed we are. Our hearts are overflowing with love.

I already had the theme of "New Birth" for this article before the baby was born. I was so excited thinking of the joyful anticipation of her birth and our enormous love for her even then. This made me reflect on how Mary and Joseph must have felt when they knew that their son was going to be born as the long-anticipated Messiah, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Can you imagine everyone's excitement?

You see, God, our creator, loved us all so much (even before we were born) that He knew the world then and now needed His only son, Jesus, to become a new birth for our lives. He knew we needed Jesus to save us, a new birth for those who believe in Him. Read John 3:16. That is unconditional love!

Jesus knew His purpose from the beginning, even as a child teaching in the synagogue. He knew He was to fulfill His Father's plan to live as a Son of Man here among us, to go through human life (though sinless himself), to experience, to feel, and to understand our own human ways. But He was mainly here to become our Lord, our healer, and our Savior, so that through His pain and death on the cross and through His glorious resurrection to life, we could be born again, free from sin. He provided a "New Birth" for us with the assurance of eternity with Him and His Father.

As Jesus grew in power and might during His life on earth, we too need to grow daily in His love by loving Him back, feeding on His Word, and depending and trusting in Him for all our needs,

just as a newborn relies on their mother and father. The Holy Bible in 1 Peter 2:2 tells us that we, "like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

I quote the inspirational words from Carol Kent's devotional book, *He holds my Hand*: "The day you said yes to following Jesus as your Lord and Savior, it wasn't only your 'day' that took a good turn – it was the rest of your life, for all eternity. You have literally been remade, like a newborn baby with a clean slate and a whole future of possibilities for living a good, happy, and productive life. Only now, your life is better than a brand-new baby's because your sins have been forgiven and God will remember them no more!"

As much love as we as grandparents have for our new baby granddaughter, Eliza Dove, and for our children and other grandchildren, I am reminded of how much more our own heavenly Father, and His son, Jesus, love and care for us. We are His children, a new creation of His own. Dwell on these thoughts: I am related to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. My sins are buried in the deepest sea. My future is filled with hope. I am a new creation. "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Welcome to the family of Christ!

In Memoriam

*Kermit Williamson
Blaine McCann*

*Westbrook Grange
Little Mountain Grange*



On May 7, Grantham Grange and Brogden Grange partnered to celebrate 85 years of being organized. They also partnered with the Eastern Carolina Vintage Farm Equipment Club to promote and support agriculture and to make the public aware of the Grange. The celebration was held at the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fairgrounds from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

GRANTHAM & BROGDEN GRANGES CELEBRATE 85 YEARS

by : Joyce Hood

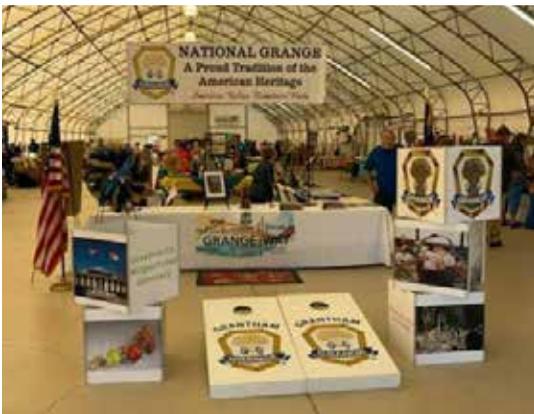
The morning started off by having an opening ceremony and the singing of our National Anthem. We were excited to have the National Grange represented by President Betsy Huber, Community Service Director Pete Pompper, and Sales Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director, Loretta Washington. Also in attendance from the NC State Grange was Jimmy Gentry, President; Katie Greene, Membership Director; Jennie Gentry, Youth and Young Adult Director; and State Grange Board member Tom Cash.



The day held many activities and displays including the NC Troopers Association Caisson Unit, Wayne County mock jail, beekeepers display, the FFA, local produce, craft vendors, and local and state Grange booths. WRAL's Scott Mason, host of the *Tarheel Traveler*, was also present to sign his books. The event offered tractor rides, cornhole, and a baking contest. Entertainment was provided on stage by a wide variety of acts including music by Grange member Kasey Vann, music by Canaan Land which is made up of local Grangers; and a group of dancers who performed traditional Mexican dances such as Jarabe Tapatío in beautiful traditional dress. Local groups also sold food and snacks at the event. It was a wonderful day of celebrating our Granges.



Pictured top right: Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director; Jimmy Gentry, State Grange President; Jimmy Martin, Brogden Grange President; Betsy Huber, National Grange President; and Jon Crawford, Grantham Grange President.



- “right to repair” for electronic farm equipment.
- Provide that in the event of a tax foreclosure on property encumbered by a conservation agreement, the conservation agreement is not extinguished upon the sale of the property.
- Specify that farmed cervid feed means commercial feed sold to a cervid farmer for farmed cervid use, rather than commercial feed labeled or marketed for farmed cervid use.
- Provide that \$2.5 million in nonrecurring funds appropriated in both the 2021-2022 and 2022- 2023 fiscal years to the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission for a contract with North Carolina State University to study nematode mitigation will remain available until expended and not revert.
- Make several technical changes.

The 2022 ABC Omnibus bill passed 100-9. This bill was extensive and decreased regulations on bar owners as well as expanded freedom of alcohol transportation and sales. Just as an interesting note, North Carolina is one of only seventeen states where liquor is still controlled by the government.

Conform Hemp with Federal Law The Hemp provision in the Farm Act that was taken had outraged hemp farmers and retailers across the state. They were overjoyed when the provision was replaced with SB 455 which kept hemp legal in North Carolina and removed it from the State Controlled Substances Act.

From the Hill

In April, the House Republican Healthy Future Task Force Subcommittee released its new health care platform. It includes

multi-cancer early detection (MCED) as a key priority, building on the overwhelming support showing this legislation as a true priority from leadership across the board. The NC Grange supports the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act of 2021. We were one of 400 organizations that signed a letter reaching out to US Congress encouraging support of this bill. We are thrilled to see 219 cosponsors have joined HR 1946, This now means that a majority of the US house is on board! We feel that MCED is a “game changer” in early treatment of those facing cancer. We also reached out to members of the NC Congressional Delegation that had not signed on. Below is an excerpt from the letter.

Every day, approximately 1,700 Americans die from cancer. That adds up to more than 600,000 perishing from these diseases each year. It is well known that early detection of cancer saves lives, lowers treatment costs and increases quality of life for patients and their families. In fact, the five-year survival rate is almost 90% when cancer is found in its early stages. Yet we still have so many deaths in the United States stemming from late-stage cancer diagnosis—because until now, we have had only a handful of early detection screening tools. Today, routine screening is reimbursed for only five types of cancer—breast, cervical, colorectal, prostate, and lung cancer (only in high-risk individuals for lung). That leaves the vast majority of cancers without available screening tests and those cases account for nearly three of every four cancer deaths in the United States each year. The data also show that cancer takes a disproportionate toll on communities of color and rural America.

GOTCHA COVERED
by : Mark Davis

NC GRANGE ANNOUNCES SALES AWARD RECIPIENTS

NC Grange held a pilot sales award incentive, open to all of our agents that sold our BCBSNC Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplemental plans to their clients. This incentive was an effort to boost our Medicare sales to help push us over our annual sales goal, which we are happy to report did in fact help achieve that goal. Due to the success of the pilot awards incentive program, NC Grange not only was able to continue the Medicare sales incentive, but we expanded the program to include the under65 individual sales as a separate award. The continued awards program for 2022 is broken down into quarters consisting of March-May, June-August, and September-November.

Top Earning Medicare Agents for March – May Sales:

- Kimberly R Austin – Monroe, NC
- Beverly G Mitchell - Burnsville, NC
- Blake Pounders - Dunn, NC
- Chase McKelvey - Brevard, NC

Honorable mentions in the Medicare Market for this quarter are:

- Chip Pruden – Edenton, NC
- Kenneth W Ennis – Coats, NC
- Austin Redwine – Shallotte, NC
- Fred Tulloss – Rocky Mount, NC
- Crayton Kale – Lincolnnton, NC
- Michael Alessi – Hendersonville, NC
- Patrick McBrayer – Southern Pines, NC



BASED ON A TRUE STORY

2022 GRANGE CAMP

BY: JENNIE GENTRY
PHOTOS BY: MARK DAVIS & JESSICA HORTON

If you were to ask any Grange youth what their favorite part of summer is, nearly all of them would say, “Grange Camp!” And if you were to attend Grange Camp, you would see the bonds of friendship that are made among our campers and why this week is the highlight of their summer. Our 76th year of camp was held July 10-16 at the beautiful Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC, which sits beside the calm, scenic Albemarle Sound. It was an amazing week together where campers learned about leadership, team building, and the Grange through fun, exciting activities. This truly was a tremendous week of personal growth for our campers!

“Based On A True Story” was this year’s camp theme, created by our Youth Leadership Team. This theme was used to encourage campers to be their own true selves and to use the stories from their own personal experiences to help others. Campers were encouraged to be proud of who they are, to learn to love themselves, but to also be accepting of others. The team incorporated these lessons with special daily thoughts and vespers, and some even shared their own person stories and journeys of growth during special evening events with the youth.

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 flowerpots for this fall’s Youth and Junior Awards Banquet at State Convention. The pots will hold pollinator seeds to encourage people to plant those flowers to increase the bee population.

The week of camp included group challenges as part of the traditional “Battle By the Bay” competition. Groups competed in a variety of activities with one group emerging as the week’s champions. This year’s youth winner was the group Faith, led by counselors Jason Cameron and Montana Riley, and Youth Team members Karly Denning and Asheton Medlin. The Mint Group led by counselors Tammy Bright, Jessie Quick and Charles Howerton, and Junior Team members Ryleigh Hartsell and Anna Hahn, were 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 robin of team building water activities on the sports field. Imagine slime and water dumped on your head; jumping into a pool of muddy water; 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 "TV Characters" costume night. Awards were presented to best costumes which included characters such as Guy Fieri, Bob Ross, Gilligan, and Wilma Flintstone. Best Costume Duos included Joe Exotic and Carol Baskin, characters from Full House, Elle and Max from *Stranger Things*, and Pam and Kevin from *The Office*. The night was emceed by the Youth Team and opened by Jennie Gentry and Emily Hartsell, both of whom were dressed as Judge Judy. Wednesday night held our traditional Skit Night when each group performs a skit, giving everyone many laughs.

Thursday night, 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, Baylor Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Jacob Roquet 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 Ryleigh

Hartsell of St. John's Grange. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Jordan Lambert and Raegan Hartsell, who served as the Junior Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward. All officers truly stood out, demonstrating phenomenal leadership skills. The evening also included square dancing, a long-time tradition at camp!

At our annual Friday evening Awards Ceremony, trophies were presented to each Junior Camper for superlatives chosen by their group counselors. Jordan Lambert and Anna Hahn were crowned the Junior Camp Prince and Princess. Counselors also selected special awards that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors Award was given to Raegan Hartsell and Isabelle Welborn. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to Lucy Anderson and Ryleigh Hartsell. The highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Jordan Lambert and Emry Starnes.

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives, which were selected by their peers. Jacob Roquet and Olivia Barber 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 in September. The Counselors' Award was given to Matthew Settle and Lillie Pinkerton. The Youth Director's Award was awarded to Nathan Ramirez and Abby Gentry. The Grange Leadership Award was awarded to Carter Settle and Taylor Rogers. The highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Jacob Roquet (Cape Fear Grange)





and Asheton Medlin (Bushy Fork Grange). All campers did a wonderful job throughout the week! The Awards Ceremony was followed by dancing, and a slideshow of the week. 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 2022 State Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. Made up of Olivia Barber, Karly Denning, Baylor Howerton, Asheton Medlin, Lillee Pinkerton, Jacob Roquet, Carter Settle and Matthew Settle, along with our Young Adult Ambassador, Autumn Whitaker, 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 to lead camp activities such as vespers, flag raising and mealtime songs. They also helped cheer their teams on supported their counselors. The Junior Team this year was made up of Lucy Anderson,

Anna Hahn, Ryleigh Hartsell, Jordan Lambert, and Gentry Wilson. The team did such an amazing job leading!

Our incredible Grange Counselors are also attributed for the week's success. We thank them for their hard work and for volunteering their time to help make a difference. 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 special 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." It is a place where kids come out of their shells, build relationships and work together. Most importantly, it is a place where campers are accepted for who they are and where they can completely be themselves, learning to live out their own true stories.

- King:** Jake Roquet
- Queen:** Olivia Barber
- Best All Around:**
 - Female: Asheton Medlin
 - Male: Carson Lackey
- Best Role Model:**
 - Female: Lillee Pinkerton
 - Male: Cade Howerton
- Grange Spirit Award:**
 - Female: Karly Denning
 - Male: Eli Lambert
- Mr. and Miss Congeniality:**
 - Female: Samantha Hunnings
 - Male: Harvey Reyburn

- Best Personality:**
 - Female: Rylee Casey
 - Male: Nick Cameron
- Unsung Hero:**
 - Female: Makenna Seymour
 - Male: Nathan Ramirez
- Most Outstanding Leader:**
 - Female: Baylor Howerton
 - Male: Matthew Settle
- Most Unforgettable:**
 - Female: Caroline Barber
 - Male: Michael Wilson
- Most Fun to Be Around:**
 - Female: Taylor Rogers
 - Male: Carter Settle

- Best 1st Year Camper:**
 - Female: Anna Keeter
 - Male: Jaiden McDougald
- President's Best Camper Award:** Asheton Medlin & Jacob Roquet
- Youth Director's Award:** Abby Gentry & Nathan Ramirez
- Grange Leadership Award:** Taylor Rogers & Carter Settle
- Counselors Award:** Lillee Pinkerton & Matt Settle

2022 YOUTH SUPERLATIVES



JUNIORS AT CAMP

BY: EMILY HARTSELL

Another wonderful week of Grange Camp is in the books! This year we had a total of 39 Juniors and a great group of counselors that we are very thankful for. We had five amazing Junior Leadership Team Members: Lucy Anderson, Anna Hahn, Ryleigh Hartsell, Jordan Lambert, and Gentry Wilson.

During Model Grange Night, Raegan Hartsell and Jordan Lambert led our Juniors in an outstanding drill. Below are our 2022 State Junior Officers who performed their duties for Model Grange this year.

- President:** Ryleigh Hartsell
- Vice President:** Lucy Anderson
- Chaplain:** Gentry Wilson
- Program Director:** Anna Hahn
- Steward:** Emry Starnes
- Secretary:** Laci Liles
- Treasurer:** Avery Furr
- Gatekeeper:** Levi Liles
- Ceres:** Chloe Laws
- Pomona:** Mollie Ingalls
- Flora:** Paisley Walters
- Executive Committee:** Kinsley Eudy, Jack Spratling, Sarah Anderson, Wiley Wilson, and Tye Furr.



Each year, counselors select some of our Juniors for several special awards. This year's recipients are:

- Hunt Best Camper Award:** Jordan Lambert and Emry Starnes
- Grange Leadership Award:** Lucy Anderson and Ryleigh Hartsell
- Counselors' Award:** Raegan Hartsell and Isabelle Welborn
- Prince and Princess:** Jordan Lambert and Anna Hahn

The first 3 awards will be presented at State Convention in September. We are very proud of all of our Juniors for making Grange Camp so wonderful!



GRANGERS HONORED AT FFA CONVENTION

by : Jennie Gentry

The Youth Leadership Team participated in their annual Caravan trip in June to promote the youth program and prepare Grange Camp. They also spent two days working a Grange information booth at the NC FFA State Convention in Raleigh. Running the booth has been a great way for them to develop communication skills and teach people about the Grange. The team really enjoys interacting with students at the convention and seeing Grange friends who are also part of FFA.



The Grange sponsored the opening session this year at which Jimmy Gentry, State President, gave a brief welcome. The Youth Team also gathered on stage where Jennie Gentry, Asheton Medlin, and Lillie Pinkerton spoke briefly before the team threw Grange t-shirts into the crowd. This has become a fun tradition at the convention for our group.

One of our favorite parts of the event is seeing Grange members honored. On Tuesday night, we cheered as several of our youth received their State FFA Degree, which is a very big accomplishment. We were very proud to see Karly Denning, Trey Hayes, Samantha Hunnings, Carson Lackey, and Taylor Rogers as they received their degree chains.

On Wednesday night, several Grange adults received the Honorary State FFA Degree. It is the highest honorary degree awarded by the NC State FFA Association and is presented annually to a group of recipients. The purpose of this degree is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the NC FFA Program. After a special reception, Grange members who received the honor this year included Jennie Gentry of Southern Wake Grange, Lee and Hilda Goodnight of Corriher Grange, and Alycia Thornton of Westbrook Grange.

“I can’t express how grateful I am to the NC FFA for this honor. I love FFA and our partnership with such a fantastic organization that invests in the lives of young people. I love seeing teachers who were once youth in Grange and FFA now making amazing impacts on their own students as ag teachers. I also felt so loved by the loud cheers from the Youth Team and other youth who were at the ceremony when I received my plaque. What an honor!” stated Jennie Gentry. The Grange enjoys supporting the FFA and participating in the convention each year. Congratulations to all our members who were honored this year.



homemade pickles

photos & story by : Jessica Horton



David and Crystal Allen, members of Corriher Grange in Mooresville, NC, are owners of Tranquility Farm. They have a wide variety of fresh produce, including muscadine grapes, tomatoes, cantaloupe, okra, blackberries... and cucumbers. 96 cucumber plants to be exact. Each plant has the capability of producing dozens of small cucumbers per plant, they grow on restricted vines about three feet wide and one foot tall, making a great plant for small garden spaces and high yields.

If you are keeping track, 96 plants producing dozens of cucumbers each.... well, equals A LOT of cucumbers. David estimates he picks a few hundred pounds per growing season from his patch.

David quickly found himself with an abundance of cucumbers to do something with, so he started pickling them. He invited Katie and I to test out a pickle making class at the Tranquility Farm shop on their farm. It's a space they built several years ago. They host other classes there, pour cold muscadine slushies and serve hotdogs on Saturdays.

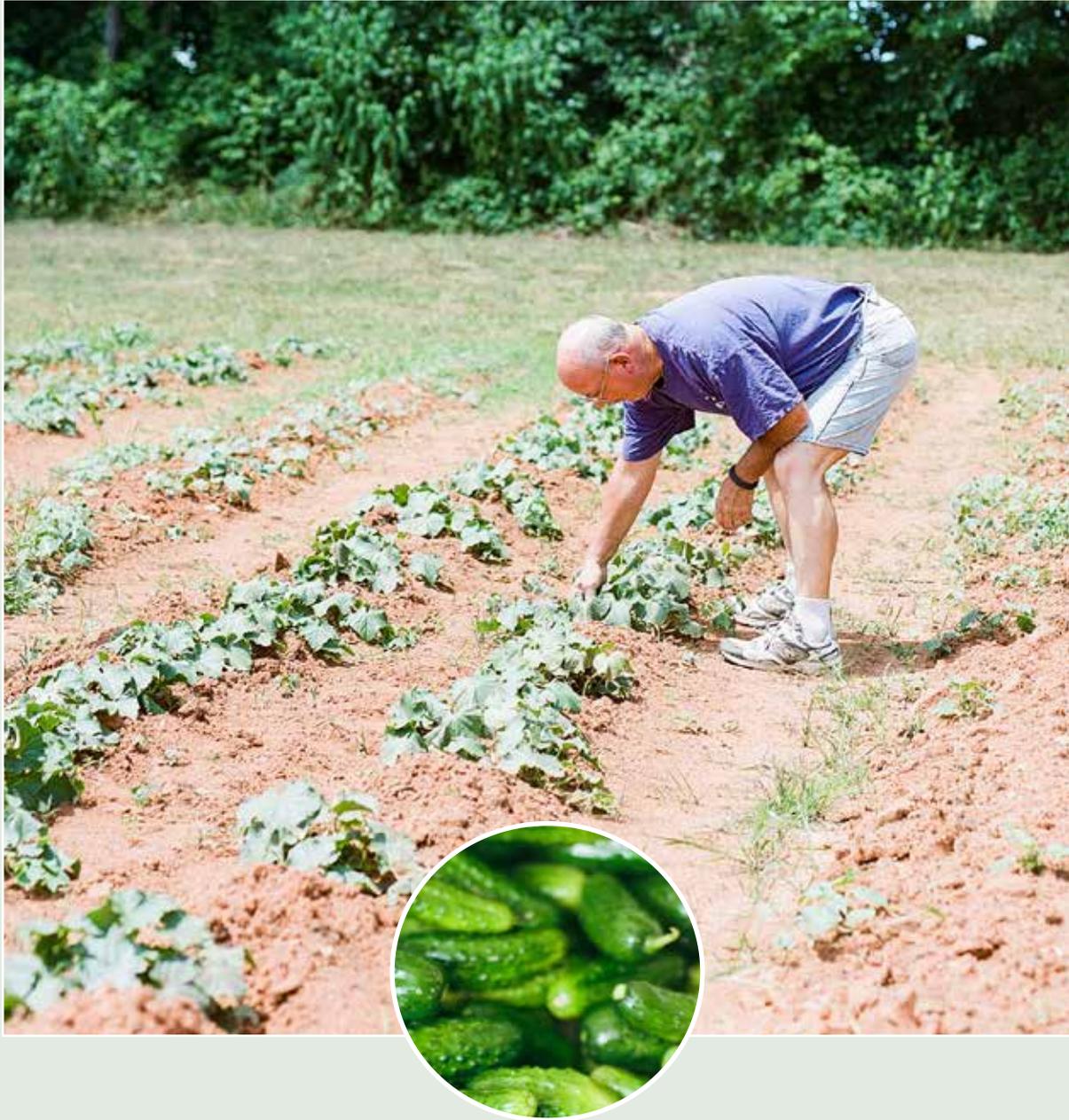
Over the course of two days, we picked, scrubbed, sliced, boiled, stirred, strained, and packed 16 pounds of cucumbers between the two of us. As someone who had never canned anything, I certainly gained a new respect for this art of food preservation. Standing over the sink to scrub and slice was the hardest part! On the second day, after carefully packing the boiling hot cucumbers into jars heated in the oven, we patiently awaited the "pop!" of the suction of each jar. Then the dreaded news... we should wait 6 months to eat them! That means sometime around Christmas, we will crack a jar open and enjoy them.

Learn more about Tranquility Farm at [facebook.com/Tranquility-Farm-862215777192210](https://www.facebook.com/Tranquility-Farm-862215777192210)



Photos & Story: Jessica Horton





8 Pounds of Cucumbers
2 Cups Pickling Lime
2 Gallons Water

Wash and slice cucumbers to desired thickness.
Combine lime and water in a large bucket and
and let stand overnight.

2 Quarts White vinegar
4 Cups Sugar
2 Tablespoons Salt

After cucumber mixture has set in the lime
mixture overnight, rinse cucumbers three times
in cold water.

Mix vinegar, salt and sugar and add
cucumbers. Let stand for three hours then
bring the mix to a boil for thirty minutes.

Pack finished cucumbers in hot sterilized jars,
packing them down tight to remove air as you
fill.

GRANGERS VISIT DC

by : Jennie Gentry

A group of Grange members from our state traveled to Washington DC, June 16-19, to attend the Eastern Regional Conference. NC is now part of this region after it merged at the end of last year with the Southeast Region. Our group attended to participate in workshops, activities, and contests.

On Friday, June 17, the group from NC visited several sites around DC such as the Washington Monument, the US Capitol building, and the National Museum of Natural History. We also found the National Grange commemorative plaque along the walkway of the National Mall. It was a beautiful, hot day to see these sites before traveling to the hotel to begin the conference later that evening.

The conference began with welcomes from National President Betsy Huber and National Grange staff members. After learning more about the Grange and enjoying a pizza dinner, the Grange Baseball Contest was held in which two teams competed by answering Grange trivia questions to gain as many 'runs' as possible. Points were added with one team winning and with several individuals receiving recognition for scoring the highest. For

the Juniors, Raegan Hartsell received a blue ribbon for her top score. Baylor Howerton had the second highest score in the Youth age group. Before ending

National Junior Ambassadors, teaching the group how bills are passed. They also led a Kahoot game testing our legislative knowledge. This was followed by a Parliamentary Procedure workshop led by Jennie Gentry.

That afternoon, Baylor Howerton led a sign language workshop. She taught everyone how to sign the alphabet and Row, Row, Row Your Boat. We also participated in a service project making pillowcases into bags for children in foster care. During a short afternoon break, our group took a short walk to see the White House and enjoyed the beautiful day and sunshine before gathering for a delicious barbecue dinner at the Grange Building. On Saturday evening, several different contests were

held in which attendees from various states participated. The evening was hosted by the National Youth and Junior Ambassadors, including NC's Cole Settle, Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell. Our state had great success with contests this year! Baylor Howerton won first place in the Grange Ritual Contest, which involves reading





parts of the historical ritual written in code. Howerton also won first place for the Youth Ambassador Speech with Matthew Settle placing second. Autumn Whitaker placed second in the Young Adult Patron Speech Category.

The Impromptu Speech Contest was very eventful with

many contestants from the region competing. Overall, for the Junior Impromptu Speeches, Ryleigh Hartsell placed first and Cade Howerton placed second. In the Youth Impromptu Speech Contest, Asheton Medlin placed first while Jacob Roquet tied with Bryce Danko from PA for second place. Carter Settle placed third. For Adult Impromptu, in his speech debut, John Hartsell placed second.

The Best In Show winner in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest over all age groups will represent our region at National Convention this fall. After winning first place in the youth category, Asheton Medlin took home this title and will deliver her powerful speech at Nationals. Asheton, along with Baylor Howerton and Autumn Whitaker, also won first place and Best In Show in the Sign-a-Song Contest. This trio will perform a song in sign

language as a group at Nationals in November.

The evening ended with goodbyes to Grange friends across the region before retiring to the hotel to rest. We visited the Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Sunday morning before making the trip back to NC. Overall, it was an educational and successful weekend for our group of Grangers.



Continued from page 9

The Medicare sales results for this past quarter were very close as you can see by the number of honorable mentions. A couple of placements invoked the tiebreaker rule, using the total year to date sales for the market segment to determine their status

The Under65 Market segment follows the same quarterly breakdown as the Medicare segment. This segment also had great results. The totals between then 3 producers were extremely close. Again, a tiebreaker rule was used to determine the fourth place producer.

Top Earning Agents for March – May Sales in Under65 Market:

- Michael Alessi – Hendersonville, NC
- Anne Rose – Murphy, NC
- Chip Pruden – Edenton, NC
- Kimberly Austin – Monroe, NC

Honorable mentions in the Under65 Market for this quarter are:

- Crystal Abee – Marion, NC
- Charlie Roper, Jr – Hendersonville, NC
- Shanna Bell – Wilkesboro, NC
- Beverly Mitchell – Burnsville, NC
- Chase McKelvey –

Brevard, NC

- Alicia Lewis – Murphy, NC
- Patrick McBrayer – Southern Pines, NC
- Sandra Matthews – Pilot Mountain, NC

We proudly congratulate all these agents on their success in the marketing and sales of these products. We also thank ALL our NC Grange Agents for the work and support they give to their clients and to the success of the NC Grange / BCBSNC Insurance program. When you see one of our agents, please be sure to let them know that we appreciate them because without them, the NC Grange has no insurance program!



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RYLEIGH & CADE GO WEST

Ryleigh Hartsell and Cade Howerton are both continuing to serve as the National Grange Junior Ambassadors. They have had several trips this year and most recently visited the Western Region Conference in Eugene Oregon.



“I enjoyed my trip to Oregon. We got to visit the coast and see the Sea Lions. The coast is beautiful and it was really neat seeing the Sea Lions. The Western Regional Conference was great. Our legislative and agriculture workshops went really well. Everyone was so welcoming. I met some new people and reconnected with some friends I met at Nationals last year.”

- Ryleigh Hartsell, St. John’s Grange



“I want to say thanks to the Grange for giving Ryleigh and me this opportunity to travel to Oregon. I got to meet Grangers with wonderful stories, and spread awareness of how extreme weather affects agriculture. We led workshops and emceed the the public speaking contest for the Western Region. We got to visit Sea Lion Caves and the Pacific Ocean. So, thank you, Grange! I never could have done this without you.”

- Cade Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange