



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE | October 10, 2019

MASTER'S MESSAGE

TRAVELS DEEPEN AWE OF GOD'S CREATION

BY BETSY E. HUBER

National Grange President

I am continually awed by the beauty God created in this world. As I travel to different parts of the country the scenery is very different but all so beautiful.

This week I had the opportunity to attend Degree Day at Freedom Plains Grange, NY, presented by Dutchess County Pomona. The teams did an excellent job presenting the first five degrees with a wonderful dinner and fellowship in between. This Grange is located directly north of New York City. The next day I drove east to west across the entire state of New York, (6.5 hours,) to Buffalo to visit a hotel being considered for a future convention. The highway for quite some distance followed the Erie Canal, a marvel of engineering that opened up transportation and commerce for much of the region. The trees are beginning to change colors, and through the rain, sun, showers, and even a rainbow, the scenery was beautiful.

Monday I visited another hotel in Niagara Falls and, as it was just a few blocks away from the Falls, I got to see them up close. The beauty is amazing, and the amount and force of

water is incredible! And how man has captured the power of water to produce electricity for millions of homes and businesses in the Northeast.

Leaving Niagara Falls on Tuesday to go home to south-east PA (6.5 hours) I drove through some of the most beautiful farms. When most people think of New York they think of the big city, but the state is a powerhouse of agriculture. Dairies, corn and soybean and alfalfa fields, vineyards, everything was green and healthy-looking and beautiful.

In August when in Montana for the Western Regional Conference I took a couple days to tour Glacier National Park. The beauty here is breathtaking and I highly recommend a visit. Very different from farms in NY and PA, but just as beautiful.

As you travel this fall, even around your home area, stop and take time to notice the beauty all around us, whether the green beauty of farms and crops, or the stark beauty of snow-capped mountains or desert and colorful rock formations. It was all created for our enjoyment and never fails to lift my spirits.

I hope to see you all in just three weeks in Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes!

OCT. 12 IS LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR CONVENTION MEALS

You may still register for convention on-site after Oct. 12, but there will be a late fee and no meal tickets will be available for purchase.

REGISTER ONLINE AT

tiny.cc/NG153



ABOUT US

NATIONAL GRANGE
1616 H STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
888-4-GRANGE
NATIONALGRANGE.ORG

The Patron's Chain is the official newsletter of the National Grange, published on the second, third and fourth Thursday of each month.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUBMITTING CONTENT OR ADVERTISING FOR THIS OR ANY OTHER NATIONAL GRANGE PUBLICATION OR OUR WEBSITE, SEND AN EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG.



GRANGE is a registered trademark of the National Grange, which also holds a number of other marks.

Established in 1867, the Grange is a family fraternal organization open to all who seek to serve others, build lifelong friendships and reach their highest potential. A part of more than 40,000 hometowns since its founding, based on the principles of nonpartisanship, grassroots policy-making and equality, the Grange holds the distinction as the nation's oldest agriculture advocacy organization.

"In essentials, unity; In nonessentials, liberty, In all things, charity."

2018-19 NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICERS

BETSY E. HUBER

National Master

PHIL PRELLI

National Overseer

LEROY WATSON

Exec. Committee Chair

LYNETTE SCHAEFFER

Exec. Committee Secretary

SUSAN NOAH

Exec. Committee Member

STEVE COYE

Exec. Committee Member

CHRISTINE HAMP

National Lecturer

JUDY SHERROD

National Secretary

BARBARA BORDERIEUX

National Chaplain

WILLIAM "CHIP" NARVEL

National Steward

JOHN PLANK

National Asst. Steward

BRENDA ROUSSELLE

National Lady Asst. Steward

DWIGHT BALDWIN

National Treasurer

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON

National Gatekeeper

CINDY GREER

National Ceres

KAY STILES

National Pomona

WELINA SHUFELDT

National Flora

BRUCE CROUCHER

High Priest of Demeter

JAMES A. OWENS

Priest Annalist

ROGER BOSTWICK

Priest Archon

GET TIME-SENSITIVE STORE, MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION ORDERS IN BY OCT. 22

All Grange Supply Store orders and membership recognition requests received at the National Grange office or online by Oct. 22, 2019 will be processed and mailed before directors leave for the National Convention on Nov. 1. Any Membership recognition request received after Oct. 22 will be processed the week of Nov. 11.

TEXTS KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED, WILL REMIND OF LIVE EVENTS FROM THE 153RD CONVENTION

Members are encouraged to text the GRANGE to the number 24365 to sign up for automated alerts about contest and program deadlines, information about advocacy opportunities and much more.

In November, those who have signed up will receive messages from on-site in Minnesota, letting you know when to log into Facebook and watch live-streamed coverage of things like the Evening of Excellence, Youth Opening and Quilts of Valor presentations. It will also tell you when the daily Convention newsletter is available to read and much more.



Cornerstone Washed Duck Jacket (embroidered) Small thru XL - \$167 ea
Full Zipper Hooded Sweat - (screen printed) Small thru XL - \$35 ea
Fleece Jackets (embroidered) Small thru XL - \$37.50 ea



SUPPLY STORE



CLOSEOUT SALE

Exemplification of the 1873 Degrees at the Kelley Farm Challenge Coin

Heavy 2.25" diameter brushed nickel challenge coin. \$15 + shipping. These are collector items! Get yours today by going online to grangestore.org or contacting Loretta Washington at sales@nationalgrange.org or (202) 628-3507 ext. 109

Remember to Visit our Grange Store™

www.promoplace.com/grange!

Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc.

1-800-868-2330

or email sales@monroeclassic.com

**APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY
REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS**

NORTH CAROLINA GRANGER RECOGNIZED FOR CONNECTING CONSUMER WITH FARMER

BY CASEY JEAN ROE

NC Local Food Council

Reprinted from nclocalfoodcouncil.org

In between pruning in the vineyard and the beginning of this year's honey flow, farmer David Allen is preparing for the opening of the new farm store at Tranquility Farm in Mooresville, North Carolina. Allen's impact in local food is rooted in selling farm products directly to customers.

Managing a retail produce store is a familiar role for Allen. "I've always loved working in a grocery store," he says. Allen's father managed grocery stores. When Allen was 15 years old, he began working in a produce mart in Graham, North Carolina. He continued to work in grocery stores on and off for 20 years, including while paying for college.

After college, Allen joined the police force in Burlington, North Carolina where he remained for 11 years. He served as the police chief in Cleveland, North Carolina before retiring in 2017.

David Allen and his wife, Crystal Allen, prepared for retirement by planting a muscadine vineyard on the land she inherited from her grandparents. "We wanted to do something that would make her grandparents proud and that's how the vineyard started," David Allen recalls.

On the farm, Allen's year has taken on a new rhythm and the shape of his day depends on the season. "We tried to pick enterprises that were different seasons of the year

so that not everything comes in at the same time," he explains.

Early spring days include caring for the farm's bees, fertilizing, and maintenance pruning in the vineyard. June brings honey collection and blackberry harvest. Cucumbers will be ready to pick and process in July and extended family will help with the muscadine harvest in mid-August.

Tranquility Farm sells products year-round at the China Grove Farmers' Market and the Winecoff School Road Farmers' Market in Concord, North Carolina. Allen values farmers' markets because they provide connection to the community.

"I'm a big believer in the farmers' market programs that we have because it is a way for our local growers to interact with the customer base," Allen says. He joined the Board of Directors of the Piedmont Farmers' Market Association in 2014 and serves as the treasurer.

"We're on a first name basis with the vast majority of our customers," Allen says, "establishing and maintaining a customer base is hugely important. If we didn't have that, there would be no way for us to grow."

Allen is an avid learner and actively seeks educational resources when he tries something new. To learn about operating a farm business he attended the North Carolina Farm School in 2016.

"It was tremendously helpful," Allen says of the Farm School, "the most profound thing that stuck out to me was to farm for profit, not for production."



PHOTO CREDIT: <https://ncfarmschool.ces.ncsu.edu/ncfs-state-board/>

Allen has applied this measured approach to expanding Tranquility Farm's product offerings. For the first time this summer, he is growing a crop of cucumbers. Allen will use old-fashioned recipes "to make pickles like my grandmother used to make."

Once there is an established customer base at Tranquility Farm's new farm store, Allen would like to expand the farm's fresh produce offerings. He is using conversations with customers at the farmers' market to spread the word. The farm's top selling item, a muscadine cider slushy, is the perfect way to draw a crowd.

Learn more about NC Local Food Councils' champions and their work at <http://www.nclocalfoodcouncil.org/>.

LECTURER'S REMINDER

Grange members and friends, it is time to quit procrastinating and to act! There are just a couple of weeks left to submit your public relations items and your quilt blocks. Guys, I am especially looking for more quilt blocks from you! Check out the National Grange website for all the details and entry forms.

ENTER YOUR GREAT GRANGE PUBLICITY MATERIALS INTO THE 2019 NATIONAL LECTURER'S

PR Contest



Read contest rules and download forms at tiny.cc/nglcontests

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a gold ring, sewing a quilt block. The hand is positioned over a piece of fabric with a blue and white pattern. The sewing machine's needle and foot are visible, stitching the fabric.

The logo for the National Grange, featuring a yellow shield with a blue border. Inside the shield is a stylized yellow sunburst or wheat stalk design. Below the shield is a blue banner with the letters 'P-H' in white, and the word 'GRANGE' in white capital letters on a blue background.

NATIONAL GRANGE
LECTURER'S 2019
QUILT BLOCK CONTEST

**MEN'S
DIVISION**

Top prizes of \$50 for 1st place,
\$30 for 2nd and \$20 for 3rd

EMAIL LECTURER@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG
FOR CONTEST DETAILS AND ENTRY FORM

NEWS BRIEFS

USDA invests \$152M in high speed internet

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald "DJ" LaVoy announced this week that USDA is investing \$152 million in 19 projects (PDF, 121 KB) to provide or improve rural broadband service in 14 states.

"Deploying high-speed broadband internet connectivity, or 'e-Connectivity,' in rural America expands access to essential health, educational, social and business opportunities," LaVoy said. "President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue are committed to fully utilizing all resources Congress provides for building and modernizing this critical infrastructure in rural America, because we believe that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

USDA is making the investments through the Community Connect Grant Program, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program and the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program. Investing in telecommunications infrastructure connects people to each other: businesses to customers, farmers to markets, and students to a world of knowledge.

The projects cover rural communities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

\$16.2M in grants set aside for disadvantaged, veteran farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced this week it will issue \$16.2 million in grants (PDF, 325 KB) to provide training, outreach,

and technical assistance to underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers. This funding is available through the USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program), managed by the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE).

"All farmers and ranchers deserve equal access to USDA programs and services," said Mike Beatty, director of the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement. "2501 grants go a long way in fulfilling our mission to reach historically underserved communities and ensure their equitable participation in our programs."

The 2501 Program was created through the 1990 Farm Bill to help socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and foresters, who have historically experienced limited access to USDA loans, grants, training, and technical assistance. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program's reach to veterans. Grants are awarded to higher education institutions and nonprofit and community-based organizations to extend USDA's engagement efforts in these communities. Projects funded under the 2501 Program include -- but are not limited to -- conferences, workshops, and demonstrations on various farming techniques, and connecting underserved farmers and ranchers to USDA local officials to increase awareness of USDA's programs and services while filling the needs for increased partnerships.

Specialty crop research awarded \$11M by USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Scott

Hutchins announced today that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has invested \$11 million in research that will support specialty crop farmers.

"This collaborative public-private research effort will focus on applying innovative solutions to pest management problems that often are otherwise not available to specialty crop farmers," said Hutchins, who leads USDA's Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area. "Practical and economic crop management solutions may make all the difference between thriving and just surviving financially during the growing season."

This investment is made through the Minor Crop Pest Management Program (known as the Interregional Research Project, IR-4). The IR-4 program enables crop protection technology often designed for field crops, but equally safe, effective and economical for growers of minor/specialty crops—including fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture) – to be evaluated and registered for use.

As part of this funding investment, four universities across different U.S. growing regions will lead regional IR-4 programs that will generate additional data for registration of conventional and bio-based crop protection technology for specialty and minor crops in the United States. These efforts require effective collaborations among grower organizations, federal agencies, the private sector, and land-grant colleges and universities.



Available in Shirt Colors
Navy & Stone!

Stress Cow - \$3.00 ea

Long Sleeve SuperPro Twill Shirt -
Small thru XL - \$32.50 ea,
2XL - \$33.50,
3XL - \$35.50,
4XL - \$36.50

4" Snack/Bag Clip - \$1.25 ea

Satin Super Hero Cape - \$7.50 ea

Insulated Grocery Tote - \$5.25 ea

Silicone Cooking Spatula - \$3.50 ea



Remember to Visit our Grange Store™

www.promoplace.com/grange!

Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc.

1-800-868-2330

or email sales@monroeclassic.com

**APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY
REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS**