



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

July 22, 2022

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National Grange heads to NYC!

By [Betsy Huber](#), National Grange President

The National Grange and a couple of our young members are about to be featured on nationwide TV!

Three National staff members and several volunteers and youth/Junior members will be in Times Square, New York City, next week Monday through Friday with an informational booth about the Grange. We will be part of the taping of the [Wonderama TV show](#), showcasing how our youth are making a difference in their communities - even at a young age - through the Grange. They'll also be talking about careers they are interested in.



Wonderama is taking over Times Square for the week with a kids street-fair-type event. We will be handing out stickers and business cards with QR codes linked to the National Grange website, and playing games and talking Grange with the hundreds of thousands of visitors that will pass by.

Wonderama is a kids' TV show on local cable channels reaching 9 million homes and is very popular in rural areas. Check your local listings to see if you can watch the show and see our amazing kids! Scheduled to appear are Nettie Hartley, RI, and Bryce Danko, PA. The host of the show, David Osmond, will interview me for a couple of minutes and I will be on the stage Monday

morning for the ribbon-cutting opening of the event, co-sponsored by the [Census Bureau](#) and the [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#).

We are so fortunate to be invited to participate in this amazing opportunity for publicizing the Grange name across the country. Be prepared to talk to TV viewers who learn about the Grange next week and know that there is a Grange in their town. Take the opportunity to invite them to your next activity!

Impact your community by being the gathering place

By [Pete Pompper](#), National Grange Community Service Director

Do Granges really have an impact in their communities? We are a small Grange; how much can we impact where we are located? These are questions I hear, and they got me thinking - *do we really?* Well, I am telling you **every** Grange - small or large - has more impact than you realize in your communities.

I posed a question on the [National Grange Community Service and Activities Facebook](#) page (if you haven't liked it yet, please do) asking when a Grange has an event/fair at the Hall how many vendors are there? The average is between 10 to 15 LOCAL vendors/crafters from the area. While that doesn't sound like a lot, think about the monetary and visibility impact your Grange gives them at the event. The Grange provides that opportunity to not only help them, but other businesses in your community where they buy supplies that they need to run their business.



It is also giving not only these vendors but the community at large the opportunity to network with local people in a way they would not be able to normally. Like at a Grange meeting, I can only imagine the conversations over a cup of coffee that people have at an event like this at YOUR Hall or wherever you sponsor an event. Think of the impact your Grange has if you hold six events a year and add a new crafter/vendor each time because they hear about the impact you are having in your community.

We all know how much impact a Grange has socially on its members, especially during these past couple of years. Our members by nature are social people who like to be around and interact with others. The Grange offers that opportunity through our lessons in our Degrees; Program Directors are charged with this in their installation charge and they do a wonderful job.

I am seeing more Granges opening their doors to non-members giving them the opportunity to socialize and just be around people. Granges are doing a great job with new programs and ideas they haven't tried before because they realize the program is needed in their community. As you are aware the National Grange and [Rural Minds](#) have formed a partnership to work together in getting mental health information into our rural communities. As we get information together to be used by Granges, we hope you will utilize this and get it into the community. We are working on handouts, pamphlets or other programming Granges can use. More information will be coming out and we, [Ann Bercher](#) (National Program Director) and I will be sending out these tools as they become available.

As I said in the beginning, Granges have an impact in their communities more than we realize. We don't think about it because it is "just what we do." I hope you will think about this as you are planning an event/fair and as you are asking a new speaker/vendor/crafter to take part in an event. Let them know of the impact you have in your community.

I will pose this question to end: How do you think this will impact your membership or increase Grange membership if you let them know the POSITIVE impact you have in your community.

Register for the 156th Annual Convention

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Grange Operations Coordinator



The Western Host region is excited to invite Grangers and friends from across the country to the Silver State! We are just *four months* away from the opening of the 156th Annual National Grange Convention, to be held in Reno-Sparks, Nevada from November 15 through 19, 2022.

Many new and exciting things are being planned by the Host region and you are sure to have a memorable experience in Reno! Visit the National Grange website to learn more about what's coming up at this year's convention.

Don't take too long to decide; catch the **early bird registration** and make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention at this link: [156th Annual National Grange Convention - The National Grange](#).

Early Bird Registration - \$32 is open until 9/9/2022

General Registration - \$37 is open until 10/19/22

Late Registration - \$42 closes for meal options on 11/1/22

Registration on Site - will be available at the late registration cost, *however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals*

Analysis: Inflation's Impact Likely to Be Rougher on Rural Households

By Kristi Eaton, Courtesy of [The Daily Yonder](#)

High fuel costs are eating into rural Americans' disposable income at a faster rate than urban households, meaning rural families are feeling a more painful pinch from inflation, according to a researcher who recently released a report on the topic.

Rural household disposable income fell by an estimated 38% from 2021 to 2022, while urban household disposable income fell by about 17%, the report found.

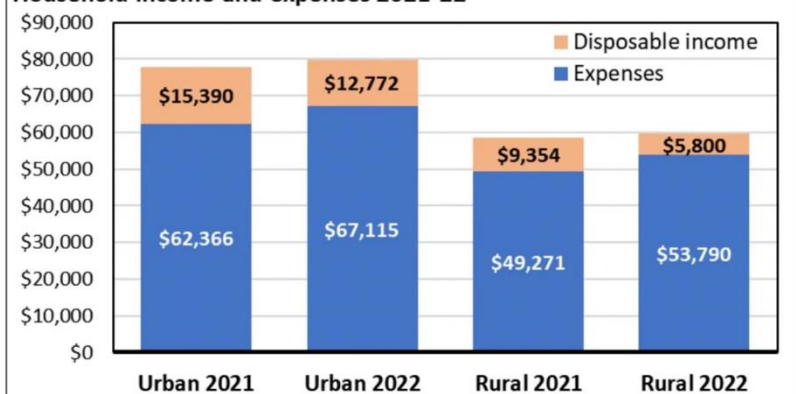
"So that's a big drop," said Iowa State University's David Peters, the author of the study, in an interview with the Daily Yonder. "If you think about after all your bills are paid, what's left over in your bank account?"

The report, [Impact of Inflation on Rural Household Expenses, 2021-2022](#), provides preliminary estimates based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Peters is an Extension rural sociologist and professor of rural policy and rural sociology at Iowa State.

Peters said the main driver for inflation in rural households is fuel prices.

"Rural households have to travel more for everything," he said. "They have to travel further for work, for school, for shopping, for daily needs, all that. And then additionally, most rural households tend to drive less fuel efficient vehicles. So there's no public transportation, they're less likely to purchase hybrids or electric cars. And then a lot of times the nature of work in rural areas requires larger vehicles – trucks, for example."

Household income and expenses 2021-22



The graph shows the average household income expended and the additional disposable income that could be saved for things like college or retirement. The average rural household had a lower overall income, and they also had a disproportionately low disposable income. In addition, the amount of disposable income dropped more on a percentage bases in 2022 compared to 2021 in rural areas. (Impact of Inflation on Rural Household Expenses, 2021-2022, by David J. Peters, Iowa State University)

Rural households earned less on average than urban households, and they had less left over after they paid expenses, the report said. The gap got worse over the last year, according to Peters' estimates.

The study takes into account the different costs of living between cities and rural areas. Rural households saw less of an increase in housing costs compared to their urban counterparts, for example. But the differences weren't enough to make up for overall lower earnings.

In 2021, the average rural household had a post-tax income of \$58,625. About 84% of rural incomes went toward expenses, leaving \$9,354 in disposable income for savings and unanticipated needs.

But in 2022 rural households will spend an estimated 90% of their income on expenses because spending will rise an estimated 9.2% because of inflation while earnings will rise only 2.6%. The net effect cuts rural disposable incomes by more than a third, reducing the cushion to only \$5,800.

The impact of inflation in urban households is real but less dramatic. The average urban household spent about 80% of its income on expenses in 2021 and about 84% in 2022, according to Peters' estimates.

The report said that inflation has "severely" reduced the disposable incomes of rural Americans, while the impact on urban households has been less severe because of higher incomes.

"This means that rural families have less money to save for their retirement or their children's college – both needed for the future economic security of themselves and their children," according to the analysis.

"Less ability to pay unexpected healthcare costs not covered by insurance, putting at risk their health and ability to work. Less ability to pay for emergency home repairs that may put them at risk for homelessness. Less ability to pay for big-ticket car repairs or needed used car purchases, jeopardizing their ability to work and to obtain essential goods and services, like groceries or healthcare. Not having this extra financial cushion puts rural families at greater risk for increased debt, default, and potential bankruptcy."

Peters said in an email that his analysis is based on average income and expenses, which means that affluent and poor households will skew the findings up or down.



Are you a *Grange in Action*?

Apply to be recognized as a Grange in Action
for being active in your community and
completing events or projects

Simple application of one letter-sized page with
pictures and captions of at least 3, but no more than 6
events or activities for your Grange.

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 25



Rural Educators' Digital Skills Summit

Grow
with
Google



Rural Educators
Digital Skills
Summit



Middle and high school educators are invited to the [Rural Educators Digital Skills Summit](#) on July 28th, presented by Grow with Google and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

The summit will feature live trainings, workshops, and a Q&A session to learn how to implement digital skills training that can help your students succeed academically and prepare for the job market of tomorrow.

The purpose of the summit is to assist educators in enhancing their students' ability to communicate, collaborate, and create while also developing career readiness skills that are tailored to rural and agricultural communities.

Educators will also receive:

- Customized classroom resources.
- Access to Level 1 or Level 2 [Google for Education Certification](#) credits.
- Training on how to facilitate lessons in the classroom using digital education tools.
- The opportunity to become a Farm Bureau Foundation Fellow.

The summit will take place virtually on Thursday, July 28, 2022, with two options to join.

- 9:00 a.m. ET - 12:30 p.m. EST
- 1:00 p.m. ET - 4:30 p.m. EST

Attendees are *exclusively* eligible to apply to become a Farm Bureau Foundation Fellow, which includes national recognition, Chromebooks for their classroom, a \$25,000 award, and the opportunity to develop a place-based, agricultural-themed digital skills lesson for nationwide use. Learn more [here](#).

[Register Here!](#)



a quarter's worth
A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

Submission Deadline: August 1st!
(but sooner is better!)

Email articles, ideas, etc. to lecturer@nationalgrange.org





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\$10.00 plus shipping

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Grange Supply Store Note: Any Grange Supply Store “rush” orders that require expedited arrival (7 days or fewer from time of order) will have a \$25.00 expedition fee added to the order, in addition to the shipping fee. This includes any seals, certificates, and membership recognition applications.

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Your membership in the National Grange helps you receive Choice Privileges please call 1-800-258-2847 or visit www.choicehotels.com and provide the **National Grange ID code: 00211660.**

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