



LONG BRANCH COMMUNITY GRANGE HOSTS “TOUCH-A-TRUCK” KIDS’ DAY

submitted by Lisa Beck
Long Branch Community Grange
#2072 (PA)

On Saturday, July 19, Long Branch Community Grange in Coal Center, Pennsylvania opened its doors—and its field—to families from near and far for a fun-filled, free community event designed especially for “kids” ages 1 to 101.

The highlight of the day was a hands-on “Touch a Truck” experience, where children had the exciting opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of vehicles. Local first responders and community partners brought fire trucks, a police car, a tow truck, and even a tractor for kids to climb in, sit behind the wheel, and ask questions about how these important vehicles help our communities every day.

The day began with an



A young attendee poses in the back of a police SUV at the “Touch a Truck” kids’ event, hosted by Long Branch Community Grange. Photo Provided

adventurous scavenger hunt, leading eager young explorers around the Grange grounds.

Activities throughout the event

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IT'S TIME TO...

REGISTER FOR THE
2025 NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION ~ AT SEA!

#GRANGESTRONG

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

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included classic carnival-style games, a bounce house, face painting, cookie decorating, and a chance to meet friendly farm animals. Children also had the opportunity to make their own ice cream and dance to lively music under glowing black lights, adding a splash of high-energy fun to the afternoon.

Of course, no Grange event would be complete without



Kids could get their face painted by Grange volunteers at the Kids' Day event.

Photo provided



Young attendees worked together to make ice cream during the Kids' Day event, hosted by Long Branch Community Grange (PA).

Photo provided

delicious food! Attendees enjoyed a tasty menu featuring hotdogs, pizza boats, fried dough, nachos, refreshing drinks, and popsicles—perfect fuel for a day packed with play and exploration.

In total, the Grange welcomed approximately 50 children and their families. It was heartwarming to see not only our immediate community but also neighbors from surrounding towns come

together to enjoy the festivities.

This was the first time Long Branch Community Grange hosted an event of this kind, and based on the enthusiastic response, it certainly won't be the last.

"We're already looking forward to making this a new annual tradition that brings families together and highlights the Grange's role as a center of community connection, education, and fun," says Beck.

GRANGE HEIRLOOM FOR AUGUST

Use the Grange Heirloom Program to teach your members and the community about some of the key cornerstones of the Grange. Materials are available at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/heirloom-program>.

You are welcome to choose any of the **Grange Heirlooms** at any time.

Use the hashtag #GrangeHeirloom when you share these important pieces of our Order on social media.



Chaplain, Second Degree

COMMENTARY: LET NO ONE UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF A RURAL STORY

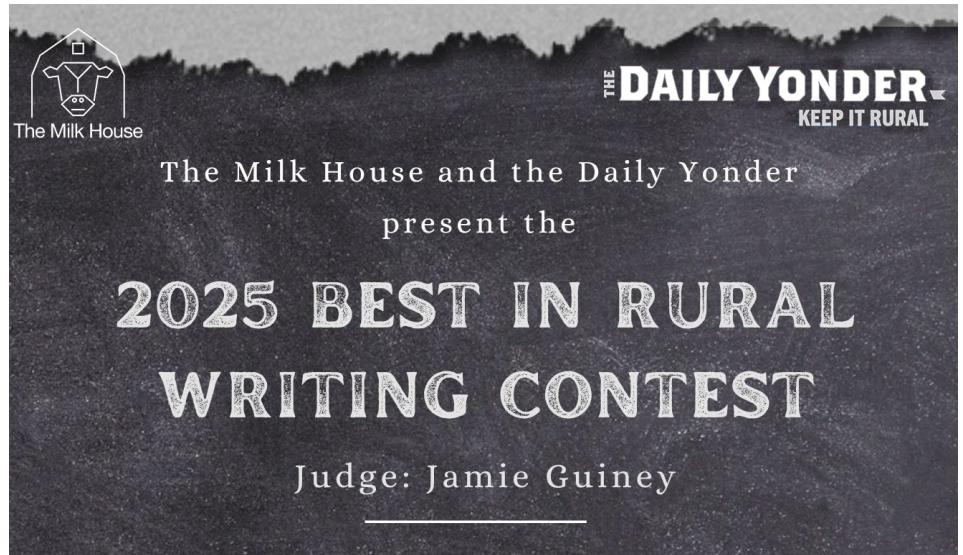
The third annual Best in Rural Writing Contest is accepting submissions until Sept. 15, 2025. The coordinator explains the important role the contest plays for rural writers.

by Ryan Dennis

Originally published in *The Daily Yonder*

I struggled to get my first novel, "The Beasts They Turned Away," published. It was set on a dairy farm, embraced the Gothic, and included a lot of details about agriculture. It took a year and a half to find a publisher, as well as 134 rejections.

During that time, the more cynical part of me wondered if the problem wasn't partly geographical. Most agents, and many publishers, are based in New York City and London. Few of them would have been born in the countryside, and the things I wrote about were outside of their experience. I wondered if they underestimated the value of a rural story, as well as the audience who had an interest in it. More importantly, I wondered if other authors came across the same



challenges.

I started [The Milk House](#), a literary journal, to allow those who write about rural subjects to connect with those who want to read about them. I wanted to lift up the rural voice and prove that the most exciting writing doesn't necessarily come from the city.

Likewise, the Milk House's [Best in Rural Writing Contest](#), now in its

third year and again presented in partnership with the Daily Yonder, has been successful in bringing exposure to the rural experience and those who explore it on the page. Not only has it boosted the writing careers of past finalists, but the contest draws attention to the need for rural voices to be heard.

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Q&A: DISTINGUISHED GRANGE



A special Zoom event, allowing Grange members the chance to ask questions about Distinguished Grange applications.

Connect: <https://grange.biz/DGzoom>

**AUGUST 11
8:30PM ET/5:30PM PT**

ARE YOU A GRANGE IN ACTION?

Congratulations to **Dows Prairie Grange #505 (CA)** on being the first Grange to send a submission for this year's "Grange in Action" program, which can be seen on the next page.

A **Grange in Action** is one that is working and active in their community. The simple application requires just ONE letter-sized page with at least three (3) but no more than six (6) photos of your Grange, plus a short caption or captions.

A few years ago, we added the **Golden Grange in**

Action title for Granges working with mental health. This year, we have also added the **Diamond Grange in Action** distinction for Granges who complete an event/activity/meeting dealing with one of the pillars of [Project Sustenance](#).

Submissions are due by September 1, either by mail or e-mail.

More information can be found at [nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action](https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action).



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 held between Sept 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025 for your Grange.

- If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Project Sustenance, you will qualify as a "**Diamond Grange in Action**."
- If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Mental Health, you will qualify as a "**Golden Grange in Action**."

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **SEPTEMBER 1**



STATE PRESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE "ACTION"

State Grange Presidents are encouraged to take action as part of an exciting initiative from the National Grange that recognizes active and engaged leadership across the country.

Building on the momentum of the successful Grange in Action program, the National Grange added the "**State Grange President in Action**" program to highlight the critical role State Masters play in advancing the mission of the Grange.

Participation is simple: submit one letter-sized page featuring color photos and brief captions from at least three (3) different events, activities, or meetings you attended in your role as State Grange President between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025.

Bonus recognition is available:

- Include an event that incorporates and promotes **Project Sustenance** to qualify for the Diamond level.
- Feature a program or event that addresses **mental health** to earn the Golden level.

We're aiming for 100% participation—so get out in your communities, represent your Grange with pride, and inspire others with your leadership. Let's show the strength of our State Grange leaders as we grow, serve, and lead together.

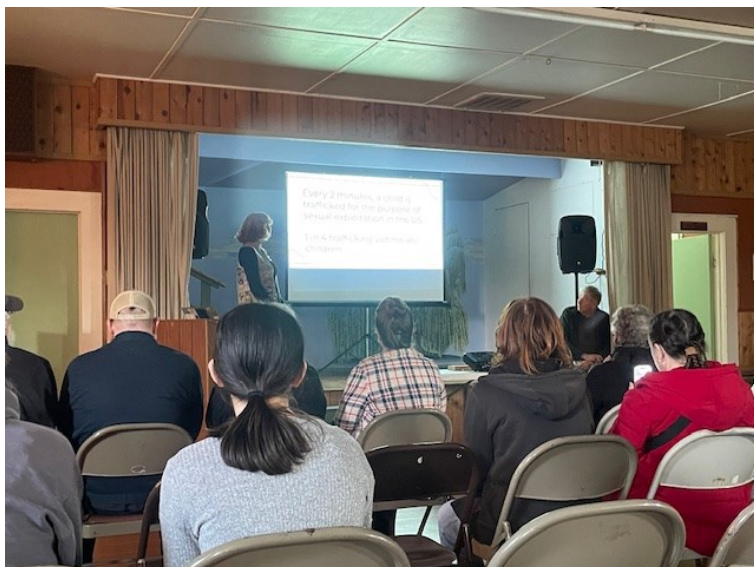
Learn more and download the full guidelines at: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/state-grange-in-action>

Dows Prairie Grange #505

California



We host a free family game night each month (January to October) to promote healthy community interactions. As part of our game nights, monthly meetings, and special events, we collect non-perishable food donations to combat food insecurity at our local high school. Our donations get sorted regularly and go into the Crisis Pantry used to feed at-risk youth through school breaks and holidays. Also related to Project Sustenance, our Lecturer regularly does presentations on agricultural issues and nutrition. Members work together during the summer months to share canning methods and equipment to make jam, pickles, and fruit spreads. In addition to an annual free Halloween Carnival, we host a Breakfast with Santa event where children get treat bags and enjoy free children's activities. We also host a week-long Winter Express event organized by the local Lions Clubs which serves over 550 children, each allowed to select 4 free Christmas gifts for family members. Picture 3: We sponsored a community event in April 2025 to educate the community about the dangers of sex trafficking and highlight survivor stories. Picture 4: Red Cross First Aid class hosted in October 2024 in partnership with Girl Scouts.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS: HELP PROTECT RURAL KIDNEY PATIENTS

Rural Americans work some of the hardest jobs in the country – on farms, in fields, and in factories that keep our economy running. But those same conditions, including long hours, heat exposure, and contact with chemicals, are fueling a quiet crisis: rising rates of kidney disease in rural communities.

Until recently, patients could

get critical phosphorus-lowering medications filled quickly and locally under Medicare Part D. Now, because of a federal rule change, those same medications are bundled in a way that cuts off local pharmacy access. Patients are being forced to wait, travel long distances, or go without treatment altogether.

Washington needs to hear from rural America. Help us fight for common-sense deregulation that restores access and keeps care close to home. Submit your comment today and help us roll back this harmful rule: [Submit Your Comment Now.](#)

Let's make sure rural communities aren't left behind.



RURAL WRITING CONTEST

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Life in the countryside is specific and diverse, and if we're not reading work by people from there, the rest of the world will never know that.

During the previous two contests, shortlisted authors have come from the United States, Canada, Scotland, Ireland, and Northern Ireland. In these stories and essays one comes to learn that the rural experience is singular and unique across geography, while at the same time capable of examining universal truths. For as isolating as the rural experience is sometimes thought to be, whether in myth or in truth, there is something special in allowing these writers to connect across oceans and borders.

The 2025 Best in Rural Writing Contest is accepting fiction and nonfiction entries up to 7,000 words until **September 15, 2025**. The first place winner will receive \$500 and second place \$200. The cost of entry is \$10 per submission. Both finalists will be published in the Daily Yonder and the 2026 Best in Rural Writing print anthology, expected to come out at the end of the year. Ten shortlisted entries will receive a free subscription to The Milk House and be published on its site. More details, including how to enter, can be found on the [contest's home page](#).

Last year's top prize went to [Jeremy Haworth's short story "Blood Brother,"](#) and second place to [Don Stewart's essay "Rebounders."](#)

The judge for this year's contest is Jamie Guiney, a writer from Northern Ireland whose debut short story collection, "The Wooden Hill" (époque press), was shortlisted for the 2019 Saboteur Awards. His novel, "The Lightning," will be published in 2026 with Bluemoose Books. He was also long-listed for Short Story of the Year in the 2021 An Post Irish Book Awards, and short-listed for the Best in Rural Writing Contest in 2023.

There's something at stake when stories don't get told and experiences aren't shared. When someone can't find themselves in the things they read, the world feels a little lonelier. Everyone who takes part in the Best in Rural Writing Contest, whether shortlisted or not, is helping to prove how expansive and varied and important rural life is. Let no one underestimate the value of a rural story.

We look forward to your submissions.

Ryan Dennis is the author of the novel [The Beasts They Turned Away](#), published by époque press in March 2021, as well as the memoir [Barn Gothic: Three Generations and the Death of the Family Dairy Farm](#) (Island Press, 2025). He founded [The Milk House](#) in 2020 to showcase the work of those writing on rural subjects and help them find greater audiences.

2025 National Grange Contest & Program Deadlines

September 1

Agricultural Awareness Project (Juniors)
Cape of Honor (Juniors)
Community Service: Coastal Clean-Up (Juniors)
Creative Art (Juniors)
Creative Writing Contest (Juniors)
Creative Writing Contest (Lecturer)
Design-a-Program Contest (Lecturer)
Distinguished Grange
Distinguished Youth Program
Garden Design Contest (Lecturer)
Grange in Action
Grange Hall of Fame
GROW Club Travel Scholarship
Junior Grange Ambassador (Juniors & Youth)
Junior Mentor Award (Youth)
Pen-in-Hand (Lecturer)
Public Speaking (Youth - open to 14+)
Sign-a-Song (Youth - open to all ages)
Social Media & Reels Contest (Youth)
Sticker Design (Youth)
Quilt Block Contest (Lecturer)
Virtual Photography Contest (Lecturer)
Wib & June Justi Community Service Award (Youth)

October 1

Junior Grange Community Service Contest (Juniors)
Ocean Farm Discovery Wreath (Juniors)
Ocean Farm Journey Placement (Juniors)

Learn more at nationalgrange.org

SUPPORT GRANGE YOUTH AND JUNIORS WITH A CUSTOM CRUISE DOOR HANGER!

Grangers heading to the 2025 National Grange Convention at sea—or anyone who wants to show their Grange pride—can now preorder a custom 3D-printed door hanger to benefit the National Grange Foundation for Youth and Juniors!

These **\$10 door hangers** are designed with a magnetic back for cruise ship doors and include a hook for display after the cruise. Each one proudly displays your Grange affiliation and state, perfect for sparking conversation and showing off your Granger spirit during this year's convention aboard the *Carnival Horizon*.

Items are designed and created by Grange member Eugene Fletcher (MI), who operates his own 3D-print company, and has become known for his fidget toys at previous conventions.



Preorders are open through September 15 and can be picked up with your convention registration or shipped to your home if you're not attending.

Ordering details:

- Cruise attendees: Use promo code **GRANGE2025** at checkout to waive the \$5 shipping fee.
- Not cruising? Leave the promo code blank and your order will be shipped directly to you.
- Multiple states? Just add one item per state to your cart.

Place your order today at: <https://www.3dgenedesigns.com/product-page/national-grange-door-decoration>

Questions? Reach out to 3dgenedesigns@gmail.com.

All proceeds support Grange Youth and Junior programming, while showing off your Grange pride.



You could be one of the special guests chosen to represent a National Grange officer during the closing of the second day's business of the 159th Annual Convention on Monday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.!

HOW TO ENTER

Make a **\$25 donation** to the Grange Foundation General Fund between June 21 to Nov. 2, 2025, and you will have the opportunity to receive a priceless experience — serving as a National Grange Officer during the closing ceremony.

- 9 donors will be drawn. (Each individual \$25 donation - or donation in a multiple of \$25 - counts as an opportunity for the drawing. i.e. \$200 = 8 opportunities). New donations ONLY.
- You (or someone you choose) must be present at the Convention aboard the *Carnival Horizon* to take part.
- Winners will be notified on Monday, Nov. 3, and have until Thursday, Nov. 6, to accept or notify the National Grange of their stand-in selection.



**GRANGEFOUNDATION.ORG/
GENERAL-FUND**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY at GrangeFoundation.org

Recipes from the Heartland

The America's 250th Grange Workgroup is celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary by "throwing back" to some classic recipes from Grange cookbooks. Do you have favorite recipes that evoke the American spirit which you would like to see published again? Send them to Lew Gaskill at olgaskill@comcast.net. Please include which Grange cookbook your recipes come from.

Crumb Cake

Recipe courtesy of David Donley, Turkey Hill Grange #1370 in Belleville, Illinois for their 125th anniversary, April 1999

1 1/2 cup brown sugar	2 teaspoons ground ginger	1/2 cup flour for raisins
1 1/2 cup white sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda	1 cup nuts, coarsely chopped
1 cup butter	1 teaspoon baking powder	(optional)
3 1/2 cups flour	2 cups buttermilk	1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 teaspoon cloves	1 1/2 cup raisins, cooked and drained	

Cream the sugars and butter (reserve 1 cup for topping). Sift flour, cloves, ginger, salt, baking powder and baking soda into the creamed mixture and mix. Add separately, buttermilk to the creamed mixture and beat until smooth. Flour the cooked raisins with the 1/2 cup flour and add. Pour into a greased and floured 10-inch Tube pan and sprinkle the reserved sugar-butter mixture on top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until done.

Note: This recipe has been a favorite Christmas Holiday dessert for over four generations dating back into the early 1800s. Originally, the recipe called for a pinch of salt, cloves, etc. and butter the size of a walnut - in 1985, Beverly Donley (great granddaughter of the person who provided the recipe and of Dunkard Township Grange #2045, of Pennsylvania, now closed), after many attempts, converted it to the above. In 1999 it was placed in the Turkey Hill Grange #1370, of Illinois's 125th anniversary cookbook and has appeared in several different church cookbooks over the years. The recipe likely originated in Maryland, traveled to Pennsylvania and now to Illinois

Just For Fun: Preserving Children

1 large grassy field
2 or 3 medium dogs
Some rocks
1/2 dozen children
1 pinch of brook

Recipe Submitted by Shirley Lemieux, courtesy of the Winchester Grange #74 (CT) Commemorative Recipe Book, 2013

Mix the children and dogs together well: put them in the field, stirring constantly. Pour the brook over the rocks. Sprinkle this field with flowers. Spread over all with deep blue sky. Bake in the hot sun. When brown, remove the children and set to cool in bathtub.

GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: PHARMACY DISCOUNTS

LOOKING FOR PHARMACY SAVINGS?

The National Grange is proud to share resources that help members save on prescription medications. Through trusted partners like SingleCare and GoodRx, individuals and families can access free prescription discount cards accepted at major pharmacies nationwide.



Free & Easy: No registration or eligibility required! Just download it in your app store



Big Savings: Save up to 80% on most FDA-approved prescriptions



Nationwide Access: Use at thousands of pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, and more

LEARN MORE AND GET YOUR FREE DISCOUNT CARD AT:
SINGLECARE.COM
GOODRX.COM



CONTACT INFO@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG FOR MORE INFO!

Grange members can save on prescription medications through free discount programs like **SingleCare** and **GoodRx**. These cards are easy to use, require no registration, and are accepted at major pharmacies nationwide. You can access them online at SingleCare.com or GoodRx.com to compare prices and download your free card. Benefits include savings of up to 80% on most FDA-approved prescriptions, whether or not you have insurance.

GRANGE STORE



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

JUNIOR GRANGE PINS



\$5.00
PLUS SHIPPING

Show off your Junior Grange pride with this 1" soft enamel Junior Grange clutch-back pin!

The JG emblem will be sure to stand out, whether you're wearing it at a fair, at a meeting, or just to show off how proud you are to be a Junior member or supporter!

Order at www.grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

NATIONAL GRANGE

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Leadership Training & Membership Development - Amanda Brozana, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. Contact us to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training, and more. Email abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Legislative and Policy Issues - Burton Eller, Legislative Director - *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org

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