



# Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

MARCH 2014

## Knowing when to exit



**Jody A. Cameron**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

We've spoken quite a bit about leadership and the various elements thereof. We have outlined and identified the requirements to be an effective leader. We have yet to discuss the time for a leader to exit.

An effective leader must continually analyze their effectiveness to the project, team or organization and when someone else's skills are now required or you have come to the point that your membership, team or yourselves have decided you should move on. What will your legacy look like?

I firmly believe a true leader is more of a supporter

and a mentor than a guide. When you lead by serving in the capacity of a mentor or a supporter you will more clearly see the true direction of your project, group or organization.

You will clearly see the needs of all involved. Once a new leader is selected and assumes the position, having been a servant leader will ensure a smooth transition from a leadership role to a team member role and will strengthen the team and will enable you to accomplish amazing results. I realize the difficulty in moving on to a new position but when we allow our egos to impede the advancement of our organization it is hurtful to our entire organization.

I challenge everyone who is a leader to assess your role in the team and develop strategies to make us stronger, more vibrant and more relevant in every community.

I know we are the Grange that everyone speaks so fondly of and I also know

by each of us consciously developing better leadership skills we will exceed the expectations of all of our predecessors.

The Connecticut State Grange is constantly looking for ways to improve our member's leadership skills. All members will have an opportunity to this on Sunday, March 23 when the CSG and the Rhode Island State Grange present a special membership workshop with National Membership Director Michael Martin. The Workshop is entitled, "Grow Your Grange - Impact your Community" and will be held at Ekonk Community Grange Hall from 1-4 P.M. There is no charge for this workshop and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Please RSVP to me at 860-564-7614 or president@ctstategrange.org. We would love to see a full hall... please take advantage of this opportunity.

## Spring around the corner



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Our congratulations go out to Charles Bierce of Riverton Grange for winning Best In Show at the National Grange Photo Contest last November. I had the honor and pleasure of presenting him with a check from National Grange at their last meeting. Have you taken any pictures for this year's contest?

There are five categories – America the Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations, and, Historic Places of events. Hopefully by the time you read this, spring will be in the air. What a perfect time to take a picture of nature at its best. This would certainly be America the Beautiful. Photos will be judged on Sat. June 7<sup>th</sup> at Cheshire Grange Hall. For complete details check the Bluebook or ask your Lecturer.

All Pomonas should be holding their Talent and "A Number" Contest soon. The winners in your Pomona will compete at Let's Celebrate on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, also at Cheshire Grange Hall.

This will be a day of Grange spirit at its best. Why not plan on making a day of it. Full details are in the Bluebook, or watch this column for more details.

It was certainly nice meeting so many of you at the Subordinate Schools of Instruction. A lot of good ideas came from our  
...Continued on page 5

## What is a GMO?



By Charles Wm. Dimmick,  
State Legis. Committee

Recently there has been a great deal of controversy about GMOs. GMO stands for "genetically modified organism". A GMO is a plant or animal that has been genetically engineered with DNA from some other organism. The other organism might be a plant or animal or even a bacterium or virus. With rare exceptions the resulting combinations of genes from different species cannot occur in nature or be produced by traditional crossbreeding.

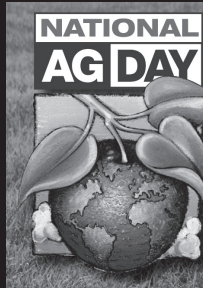
A large number of GMOs have been produced for biological and biomedical research, experimental medicine, and production of pharmaceutical drugs. The most famous of these is insulin, which used to be extracted from slaughtered pigs and cows but is now produced primarily from genetically modified bacteria. This GMO insulin is based on the human genome, and is both safer and much cheaper than that derived from slaughterhouses.

The GMOs which cause the most controversy are food crops which have been engineered to withstand direct application of herbicide or to produce their own insecticide or to have increased nutritional value or increased yield or greater resistance to adverse environmental conditions. Generally, for the farmer, this is a good thing. The opposition to GMOs falls mostly into one of three categories: (1) some people claim that GMOs have harmful effects on human diet or health; (2) there are claims that genetically modified plants may have harmful environmental consequences; (3) there are concerns that GM foods may introduce new allergens into the diet. Curiously enough, the most common mechanism for artificially injecting DNA into a plant is by use of a bacterium which in its natural state already has the ability to inject DNA into plants as part of its metabolism. Agrobacterium tumefaciens in the wild causes a plant disease called crown gall disease. It does so by inserting some of its own DNA into plants it infects. Manipulation in the lab removes the disease-causing DNA from this bacterium and substitutes DNA which enhances the invaded plant's ability to resist herbicides or produce insecticide [usually Bt], or be better able to thrive during adverse environmental conditions, such as drought or salty soils.

Despite the fact that there is broad scientific consensus that foods derived from GM crops are no more harmful than non-GM foods, there is a  
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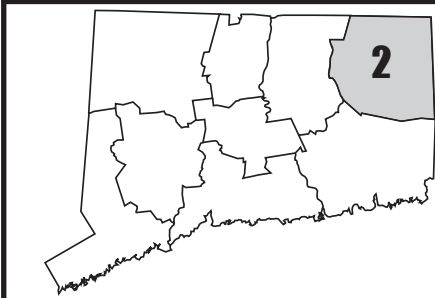


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## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Quinebaug Pomona* supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

### QUINEBAUG POMONA #2

*Corr: Tom Perry*

On Feb 1, we had our school of instruction with State Master Jody Cameron and General Deputy Todd Gelineau. The theme of the School was to see if we can revitalize our Pomona. Our Special Guest was Hank the Burro who received a special gift, which was a new sweater for the winter.

We will be having a fun night at Wolf Den Grange on March 1, starting with a potluck supper at 6:00 pm, with games to follow. All are welcome to join us.

April 5 is our next regular meeting in Ashford, program on Flowers in the Mailbox.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

*Corr: Elsie Johnson*

**Mar. 12:** Woodchuck – Right?; Ref. Irish Cookies

The topic of conversation is “cold”- but hey, it could be worse- upper states do. I sure feel sorry for the little ones or anyone waiting for a bus, or any other transportation. The elderly really feel it. Quilt making, knitting, crocheting are being worked on. Wood stoves used more than usual- so be careful. Seed catalogs are coming in – some I never heard of before.

Think spring! February meeting was a Valentine’s contest- the prettiest- the funniest and most original.

Soup labels are still coming in. Tabs too. Feed the birds. Take care when shoveling- rest often. A lot of sickness out there. So take care. Visit the shut-ins.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Sue Gray*

**Mar.15:** Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper 5 p.m.

**Apr. 6:** 125th Anniversary 2 p.m.; 35th Anniversary- Junior Grange same time same date

Shelley St. Jean was elected and installed as our Assistant Steward; she took over for J. Allen Cameron, who is presently in Chazy, NY, attending the Miner Institute. We finally had

our Jan. meeting on the 27th of Jan--old man winter sure messed up things on Ekonk Hill! Money was raised for the 2014 Sterling Family Day via a public spaghetti and meatball supper held at our hall. The “care” package that we sent to former JG, A1C, Andrew Thevenet, was so appreciated; we collected items for Ben Cousens. Ben, also a former JG, is now in the Marines. His mother, Robin, is an active Granger (as is his sister, Sarah)!

In March (7th) we take our “Complete Program” entry to our friends in RI (Richmond Grange) and they visit us as well, on Monday, April 7th, (with a program)! This is a fantastic friendship that has been ongoing for many years-Grangers are wonderful people!

March 15th is our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage supper (5 p.m.) Always a great, sell out event! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 6th--we will be holding our Subordinate 125th anniversary as well as celebrating the 35th anniversary of our Junior Grange!

We will also be having an awards luncheon. On order is an 80 year certificate (M. Pearl Scarpino); 75 year certificates (Helen Molodich & Mildred McBroom; 55 year seals for Robert Chamberland & Dennis Ahnberg; 50 year certificates for Kalvero Ruuskanen and Sue Gray. Date to be announced (as soon as the awards arrive from National Grange).

On Friday, March 28 at 5:30 P.M., a spaghetti & meatball supper will be served (with salad, bread, beverages & dessert) prior to a special program by “Ranger Russ”. The supper and program will cost adults \$7; ages 7-14, \$5 and 6 and under free. “Ranger Russ” will enthrall the audience with Native American stories, legends and games! Reservations are A MUST!

Call Rebecca at 860-564-1139 if you plan to attend.

We welcome visitors any time!

### KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

*Corr: Glenna Bruno*

**Mar. 3:** Flirting with Flowers

**Mar. 14:** Farmer’s Market – 10-2

**Mar. 16:** Farmer’s Market – 10-2

**Mar. 17:** Famous Women

**Mar. 22:** Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, 5-7, \$10

**Mar. 29:** Bluegrass Concert, 7-10 P.M.

From the above schedule, you can see Killingly Grange is going full force 24/7 (almost) and that’s good! It means we have come alive and making lots of progress and friends.

The Bluegrass concerts will continue until April. We always do well financially at the concerts though the attendance hasn’t always been as good of late, but everyone is happy and very loyal. Also they enjoy our refreshments.

The Grange is considering starting up the Square Dances again that we have had for over 20 years. Dances were dropped for low attendance as well as our loyal “caller” Bob Livingston from Middletown was getting a little tired after all these 20 years. Relax and enjoy Bob and thank you for all the time you gave us with fun and enjoyment.

Our Master Bernadette and Secretary Steve attended the School of Instruction in Norwich recently and found it very informative. I think all new members should attend such a school of instruction as soon as possible after joining. These instructions will help them understand the “ritual” much better, from state officers, than listening to perhaps, the incorrect performances in their own local Granges.

All of our new members are very much involved in

our present projects and meetings for which we are grateful as some of our “older” members are slowing down and need a little support. It would be nice to have other Grangers at our meetings. You know the door is always open. Lots of homemade refreshments.

It was nice to have Hank the Burro with us last month!

### ECHO GRANGE #180

*Corr: Gloria John*

**Mar. 11:** Youth

**Mar. 25:** Omit

We have delivered our

dictionaries to the third graders at Goodwin, Southeast and Vinton Schools. Alma Graham entered the quilt contest for the Connecticut State Grange. Our Chaplain and members visited our shut-ins at Christmastime.

We will be holding our spring Ham and Bean Supper on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. Come and join us. Mark your calendars.

We are still collecting pennies at each meeting.

Starting in April, we will be back to holding two meetings per month.

# What is a GMO?

*Continued from page one...*

significant minority opinion that GM foods have not been adequately tested and some, mostly anecdotal, evidence of potential harm. Researching these reputedly harmful effects through a literature search is made particularly difficult since most of the published and on-line sources of information are sensationalist and make scary claims not properly documented by reference to verifiable scientific studies. The other side of the question, sources that are supposed to show that GM crops are safe and pose no harm, are almost as bad, as very few properly peer-reviewed studies are cited. The one instance where it was properly documented that GM plants might be harmful to health was a study of GM potatoes. As a result, GM potatoes were never introduced to the commercial market.

One area where it has been shown that some GM crops have had an adverse effect on the environment is in the accidental transfer of herbicide-resistant genes to weed species, resulting in weeds unaffected by ordinary herbicide spraying, which is causing farmers to use more herbicide, which has its own unintended effects. Herbicide-resistant weeds have been reported in 80 different crops in 63 countries. Some of these weeds have evolved herbicide resistance on their own and some have managed to pick up the resistance genes from GM domestic crops.

Another area of concern is what effect GM crops may have on helpful insects. For example, genes introduced into plants which cause them to produce Bt poison, which kills caterpillars, has the unintended side effect of killing many natural pollinators, including honey bees. But the biggest push among the general public is for labeling of foods which have some content derived from GM sources. Member countries of the European Union, for example, must follow strict labeling regulations. “All food products that make direct use of GMOs at any point in their production are subjected to labeling requirements, regardless of whether or not GM content is detectable in the end product.” In contrast, in the United States, there are no federal requirements for GM labels. There is political pressure from some groups to require the US to adopt the European Union standards. Not surprisingly, most food producers and distributors in this country resist this pressure.

**PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor’s address listed below, right. Thank You!**

(USPS 563-220)

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### DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:

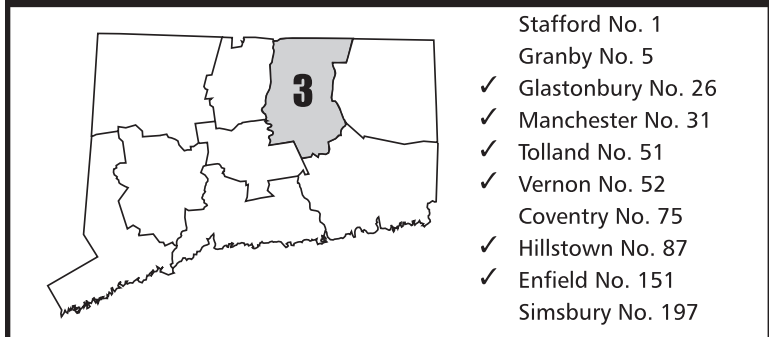
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or  
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170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790  
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

### Connecticut Granger Staff

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Vice President . . . . . Brian Carpenter  
Secretary Treasurer . . . . . Edith Schoell

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

### MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

**Mar. 6:** Meeting 7:30 p.m. The Ides of March - Ref: Mario & Jean Accornero and Tom Breen

**Mar. 8:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 P.M.

**Apr. 3:** Meeting 7:30 p.m. Easter Treats, Pot Luck - Chjairpersons, Herb and Ruth Grommeck and Kay Ruff, CWA Baking Contest

**Apr.12:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

I sure hope by the time you are reading this "spring" will have arrived. I heard this morning on the tv that Chuckles at the Lutz Museum and Phil in Pa. both predicted 6 more weeks of winter weather. I would love to see that they are wrong.

I am wondering if any of Glastonbury members have had any luck using the Grange applications that I mailed out. We do need new members. Some Granges have had good luck securing some new members. Glastonbury Grange should be able to be on that list.

Some of our regular attending members have been on the sick list

recently. That certainly hurts our attendance. Write our meeting dates on your calendar and try to attend. Our March meeting is March 6th and the card party March 8th. Hope to see you there.

**HEADS-UP -** May 3rd is our Semi-Annual Food and Tag Sale. We need everyone's help with this event. You will receive a phone call prior to the event.

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

**Mar. 4:** Agriculture

**Mar. 18:** Spring Has Sprung

**Apr. 1:** April Fool!

Winter has been rough on our meetings this year, but we did welcome two new members and are hoping that two more of our guests from the open house will join us. On March 4 our program will be in charge of the Agriculture Committee. Sister Ruth always provides a good one so come join us. Sister Maryanne is in charge of our March 18 program, "Spring has Sprung." We are all hoping that it will! We were again saddened by the death of a long-time member, Vera

Boukus. Her wit and stories will be greatly missed at our Grange.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

**Mar. 4:** Who are we?

We will continue our program of Who Are We? In January we learned about bees through the presentation of Aaron Auclair. Who knows what is next?

We meet at 7:30 P.M. at the Parker School Recreation Wing in Tolland.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

**Mar. 7:** Green Time by Ecology and Safety Comm.

Our March meeting will be all things green. Our imaginations can go wild on this one- St. Patrick's Day, Gardens, Green Energy, Green Vegetables and more!!! In Jan. we used a program from the National Grange on World War II programs on the home front. We had a sample of ration stamps and members talked about their memories of rationing and what it was like at home during the war.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Other exciting news for our Grange, we have welcomed in the following new members: Roger Michaud, Tanya Moreno, Yolanda Moreno and Jill Upton! Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 8th from 8:30 to 11am. Take a break from the winter

blahs and come relax and enjoy pancakes , sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5; children under 10 just \$3. Special "kid-cakes" will be available with chocolate chips.

This month we want to talk "Gardening" stop in to read the seed catalogs, talk and dream of spring and summer gardening with our members and other breakfast quests. On March 27th we are hosting a soup dinner from 6 to 7pm followed with a seed exchange and seed starting program. Bring any extra seeds, catalogs, gardening tips you have.

Both events will be held at our hall, contact Frank Forrest for more details or check out our website!

Hillstown Grange's Annual Corned Beef Dinner will be held on March 29, 2014. Come and enjoy a real "family style" Corned beef dinner.

Our dinner is held on Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m. at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. East Hartford. Plan early to order your ticket because this event usually sells out. A limited number of dinners

can be ordered to go.

The Grange is a rural family fraternity founded in 1867, the nation's oldest general farm organization. The Grange is comprised of families and individuals who share a common interest in community involvement, agriculture, and working together in a family environment and has been serving the Hillstown area of East Hartford, Manchester, and Glastonbury for over 100 years. New members welcome.

For more information and to purchase a ticket please call Helen at 860-568-6268 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

**Mar. 8:** We Travel By...

**Apr. 12:** You're invited - Neighbor's visit- bring a number

We've kicked off our own garden contest and look forward to entries big and small. Remember use recycled pieces to spur your imagination. In March we travel by? How different methods are used around the world. Remember our start time is now 10:00 A.M. Please come and visit.

## Simsbury Magic Show



A fun afternoon of magic is coming to Simsbury Grange on Sunday, March 2nd. It is family friendly performance but not just a, "kids" show. Children and adults of all ages won't want to miss this.

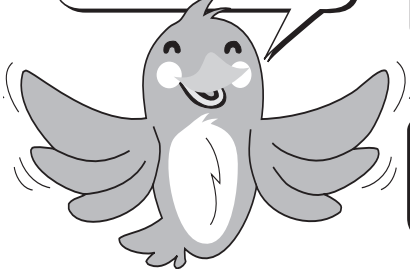
Simsbury Grange is hosting the Brian Miller Magic Show on Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00 PM at the Grange Hall. The show should last approximately 60-75 minutes in length. Following the show, a 30 minute group magic lesson with Brian will be offered to children. Simsbury Grange Hall is located at 236 Farms Village Road (Rt. 309), West Simsbury.

Advance tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children 11 and younger; \$20 for children with the lesson (ages 7-11). Prices at the door are \$30 for adults, and \$20 for children. Visit [www.simsburymagic.eventbee.com](http://www.simsburymagic.eventbee.com) for tickets. Tickets are very limited.

Brian Miller is a nationally touring variety artist, twice recognized as one of America's "Best Small Venue Performers" by Campus Activities Magazine and the former resident magician of Foxwoods Resort Casino. He currently maintains a schedule of 250+ events per year nationwide. Visit [www.BrianMillerMagic.com](http://www.BrianMillerMagic.com) for more information.

For additional information or to purchase tickets please call 860-651-6790 or e-mail [info@SimsburyGrange.org](mailto:info@SimsburyGrange.org). More information on Simsbury Grange can be found at <http://www.SimsburyGrange.org>.

### Granger Shout Out



**To Doug Shepherd for masterminding the installation of the new floor and kitchen cabinets in the renovated kitchen at Cannon Grange. - Cannon Grange**

**To John Kris for presenting an informative interactive program on nutrition and healthy eating habits. - Cannon Grange**

**A big thank you to Victor Godin from Beacon Valley Grange. Two of our members needed help and he came through in a couple of days for both of them.**

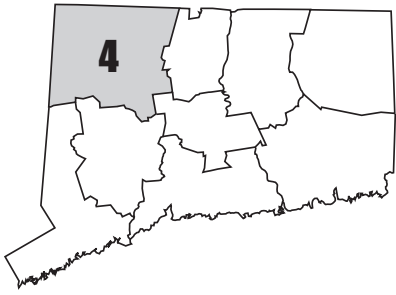
**Congratulations to Caroline O'Bar of Beacon Valley Grange. See Beacon Valley's news for details.**

### Submit your Shout-Outs today!

[Granger@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org)

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Cawasa No. 34  
Whigville No. 48  
Eureka No. 62  
✓ Winchester No. 74  
Taghannuck No. 100  
Litchfield No. 107  
Beacon No. 118  
Riverton No. 169  
Cherry Brook No. 210

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Mountain County Pomona No. 4* has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Mar. 22: (SATURDAY)**  
"Glad It's Spring," Riverton Grange Hall, 4 P.M. Potluck Supper

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be held on SATURDAY, March 22 beginning at 4 P.M. with a potluck supper at Riverton Grange Hall. Due to the work commitments of many officers, the by-laws were changed moving the day meeting traditionally held on the third Wednesday morning to the third Saturday of March. Hopefully this new day will allow for a relaxed meeting and meal and hopefully more guests will be able to join us as well.

The last meeting of the Pomona was held at Eureka Grange Hall on Feb. 11. Rather than a Lecturer's program, the State Mater presented the Pomona School of Instruction. The theme this year is a discussion on the purpose and future of Pomona as a level in our organization. This was the third Pomona School (of 8) and the third unique discussion on the

subject. While many members voiced their opinion that Pomona serves a valuable purpose as a social gathering place of the Community Granges, many others voiced concern over any consolidation efforts and the need to focus on the growth of Community Granges. It will be interesting to see how the remaining schools pan out.

Our Pomona Lecturer's Programs are now in the hands of the Lecturers of the Granges we visit, so the next program will be presented by Riverton Grange.... "Glad It's Spring"—don't know there will be anyone who will NOT be glad! Join us!

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Mar. 11:** Luck of the Irish, Ref. Potluck Supper, 6 P.M.

**Mar. 25:** CWA Program, Ref. Fran & Charlie Cooper

**Mar. 29:** Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale, 9-2 P.M.

The weather seems to be turning, at least for Winchester Grange, as we

have not had to cancel any recent meetings with storms arriving on days other than Tuesdays! Hopefully we'll be snow-free before long!

Two meetings are scheduled for March with a potluck preceding the March 11 meeting. All are welcome to join us.

Saturday, March 29 will be our annual spring Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale held at the Grange Hall from

9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Vendor spaces are still available, but always sell out, so get in touch with us soon if you are interested (860) 307-1522; info@winchestergrange.org.

In addition to the many different crafts and baked goods for sale that day will be homemade soups and sandwiches served by the Grange. It's a fun day and a great opportunity to see

friends you may not have seen since winter set in.

Plans are underway for a special open meeting in May when the Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir will present a musical program. We thank Sister Mary Lou Keefe for making this program possible—we hope you will all join us and fill the hall for this program.

# Conn/RI Workshop

The Connecticut and Rhode Island State Granges have announced they will be co-hosting a special membership workshop to be held on Sunday, March 23, 2014.

The workshop is titled "Grow Your Grange - Impact Your Community" and will be presented by National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Michael Martin. It will be held at Ekonk Community Grange Hall, 723 Ekonk Hill Road, Route 49, Sterling, Connecticut, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The event is open to all, and admission is free. Those attending are encouraged to come with an open mind to build their Granges. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

All who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to the following: Jody Cameron, CT State Grange President, Phone: 860-564-7614, E-mail: President@CTStateGrange.org or Steve Logan, RI State

Presented by the  
Connecticut State Grange  
and the  
Rhode Island State Grange

**Grow Your Grange -  
Impact Your Community**

**A Special Workshop by Michael Martin**  
National Grange Membership/Leadership Director

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd**  
**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**Ekonk Community Grange Hall**  
723 Ekonk Hill Rd., Rte. 49  
(on the Sterling/Voluntown town line), Sterling, Connecticut

**Come with an OPEN MIND to BUILD YOUR GRANGE**  
Refreshments Following

RSVP to Connecticut  
State Grange Pres. Jody Cameron  
Phone: 860-564-7614  
president@ctstategrange.org

RSVP to Rhode Island  
State Grange Pres. Steve Logan  
Phone: 401-783-3551  
SWLogan102@cox.net

[www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org)  
[www.RhodeIslandGrange.org](http://www.RhodeIslandGrange.org)

Grange President, Phone: 401-783-3551, E-mail: SWLogan102@Cox.net.

## Items available at Central Office



**Edith Schoell**  
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

*Grange shopping bags  
make great gifts!*

Many of you are aware that a couple of Granges have turned in their Charters. As a result many items have been turned in to the Central Office. Is your Grange in need of song books (browncovered)? Chairs- the captain-type with arms, holders for staves. If you do, let me know I will see what is available.

It is getting to that time of year to remind young members that scholarships are available. Letters of recommendation are needed, transcripts, etc. It all takes time to get this information put together. Applications may be obtained through the Central Office. The cost of college is unreal and every little bit helps to cover books and other items.

Maybe you would like to use a Grange shopping bag to tote your items to your next public activity. An attractive item for any occasion.

## Greenfield Hill Corned Beef Dinner



Greenfield Hill Grange, 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT is having a Corned Beef 'n Cabbage Dinner with Beth Bradley and Irish music on Saturday, March 8th 5:30 p.m.! Come and join us! Call in advance for tickets - \$20.00 for meal, dessert and musical entertainment! Call Jim: 203-259-8023. Tickets will also be available at the Farmer's Market! Buy your tickets and reserve your space NOW! This promises to be an excellent dinner, tender traditional corned beef, savory cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye bread, Irish soda bread, dessert, assorted beverages and of course Songbirds entertainment! "Jigs & Reels" traditional Irish music!

## WINCHESTER GRANGE

### CABIN FEVER

# Craft & Bake Sale

**Saturday, March 29th**

**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Snow Date: Saturday, April 5th

**Spring Crafts and Gifts**

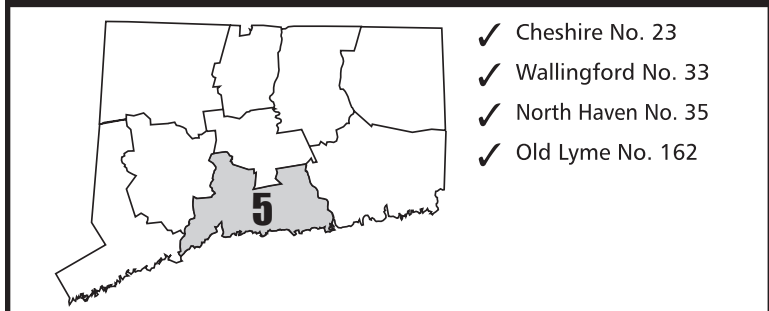
Delicious Soup & Sandwich Luncheon and More!

**Winchester Grange Hall**  
Route 263 and Newfield Rd.  
Winchester Center, CT



[www.WinchesterGrange.org](http://www.WinchesterGrange.org)

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

### MISSION STATEMENT

*New Haven County Pomona* through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Wesle Dymoke*

**Mar. 10:** Regular Meeting at Wallingford Grange Hall. Program: Talent & "A Number" Run-offs.

**May 15:** Fifth Degree at Wallingford

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Mar. 5:** CWA Program, tea cup auction-Open Meeting

**Mar. 19:** Competitive Night - Men vs Women-God Bless America Theme

We elected officers for our 2014 Cheshire Grange Community Fair set for August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary plans are under way for Cheshire Grange participating in a new community service program called Ag in the Classroom, wherein books are distributed to grades 1 to 4 and members of the

granges volunteering to come in to class and read the books to the children. As mentioned in the previous article, we have three dinners scheduled which will keep a lot of very busy and help to add to our treasury. We continue to send packages to our troops and we look forward to hearing the great responses we receive from them. This is a very worthwhile project.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Dan Lauttenbach*

**Mar. 8:** "Vernal Equinox"

**Mar. 27:** Talk on Beekeeping by Jim Pyskaty, Open Meeting. The public is invited.

We held a Movie Night on an. 9. The theme was steam trains. Up first was "B & O's 8,000 mile Birthday Party." This film was made in the mid-1970s

and is about the Chessie Steam Special. It takes place first in the locomotive shop from building a brand new locomotive number 2101 to the running of the train special through its 8,000 mile route. Lots of train whistles, plumes of smoke and steam, chugging, stops and starts. It was very enjoyable if you like steam trains.

The next film "Big Trains Rolling" was made in 1946 and was about how trains kept the country moving late in the 1940s by moving tons of freight and passengers by the railroads.

The last film "Snow on the Run" was produced in the early 1950s and is about the Southern Pacific Railroad's efforts in the winters of 1951 and 1952 (some of the heaviest snowfall ever recorded) to remove snow from the tracks in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range by using giant steam powered rotary snow blowers, pushers and movers.

Our Jan. 23 meeting was postponed to Jan. 30. Susan Huizenga from the Wallingford Public Access TV spoke to our Grange about what WPAA-TV had to offer to help us promote the Grange and help provide media content for WPAA-TV. They recently received a grant for new equipment and another grant for a program that helps a military vet to do video media programming and taping. Our Grange was one of the organizations that was given a choice whether or not to participate in this new program. We didn't have to decide that night to participate but they just wanted to show what they had to offer. It was suggested that our Feb. 27 and March 27 meetings would be good times for them to come and videotape them and then show them on their public access channel.

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

*Corr: A. Tolette*

**Mar. 4:** Going once, going twice, going green

**Apr. 1:** Who gets fooled?

My new calendar isn't much better than the last one. The pages turn too fast or not fast enough.

We are plodding along because of or in spite of the weather.

We have John Alexander home again and now Emily is having her turn. Had surgery and we hope she will soon be able to be at home.

Hope the winter storms will go somewhere else soon.

Be well and warm.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

*Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch*

**Mar. 28:** Should be a the home of our Secretary

We welcomed Arlie Chapman, G.K. of New London County Pomona to our January meeting. We also thank Sister Amy

Winger, Chaplain of Lyme Grange for filling in as LAS for the evening. Everyone enjoyed the program entitled, "A Little of This and a Little of That." A very light and fun evening was had by all.

We have a signed contract with the Old Lyme Historical Society to purchase our hall. We hope by the time you read this article, we will have had the final closing and will no longer be meeting at the hall.

Our March meeting will be at the home of our Secretary, at which time we hope to be ready for the State Master to make his final visit with us.

## Cheshire is Crafty



Thanks to our Monday Night crew who ventured out in the cold, we were able to deliver Valentine's Day treats to our friends at Marbridge.



Wreath Pins made from puzzle pieces and beads are our Monday Night Groups third Christmas project of the year.

## State Lecturer



State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt presents Charles Bierce with his National first prize award for his photo entered in the Lecturer's Photo Contest. The presentation was made at the February meeting of Riverton Grange #169.

*Continued from page one...*

discussions and will be incorporated into next years programs.

Old man winter has kept me from visiting a few Granges. Hopefully the warmer weather that should be coming will make for better traveling and eliminate the need for canceling meetings.

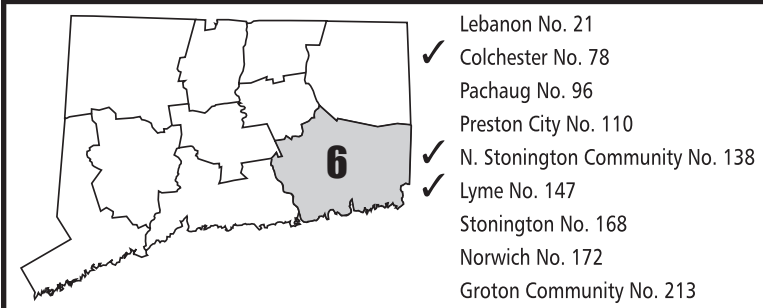
See you around the State.

## So. Connecticut Past Masters

The March meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The evening starts with a potluck supper at 6:30 P.M., followed by the meeting as soon as the dishes are done. This is followed by our program and Country Store.

On the agenda is Election of Officers. Nominating Committee is the Executive Board- Charles Dimmick, Ronald Gunther, and Robert Sendewicz.

## New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21  
 Colchester No. 78  
 Pachaug No. 96  
 Preston City No. 110  
 N. Stonington Community No. 138  
 Lyme No. 147  
 Stonington No. 168  
 Norwich No. 172  
 Groton Community No. 213

### MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

### NEW LONDON CTY. POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Mar. 8:** Talent Show, N. Stonington Grange

**May 10:** Fifth Degree, N. Stonington Grange

We are looking forward to our Talent and A Number program at North Stonington Grange on March 8. We will also have our School of Instruction on this evening so please be sure to attend.

Please encourage your members to take the Fifth Degree on May 10. This is a beautiful and impressive degree and we hope to have a good class of candidates.

The now keeps a'comin', oh woe is me,

It covers my driveway, my walk and my tree;

But don't miss Pomona 'cause you'll agree,

We'll have lots of fun!  
 Just come and see!

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Polly Leonard

We had four visitors and gave out four cards.

We wish to thank Lois Evankow for sharing her Lecturer's Program with us. We hope Joan Toomey will be able to be with us soon.

We would like to thank Cathy Russi for all her hard work. Without her we would not be able to continue our scholarship program.

This winter has been very hard on our attendance. We know that the spring will bring our members out again. Walter get well soon.

We continue our Community Service, especially with the Jewett City Vets. At Christmas we were able to bring gift boxes. They are also appreciative of the Valentine's Day cookies and gift cards. They are happy that they are not forgotten.

We also continue our service to the residents at Harrington Court and Apple Rehab. We have some dedicated Grangers. Thank you all.

We welcome visitors at all times. Stay well.

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Mar. 14:** "Pay the Piper"

**Mar. 28:** "To Stick to One's

Guns"

We are sad to report the loss of another of our Golden Sheaf members. Perry Bill passed away on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our hall boasts new flooring and fresh paint in the kitchen and old men's room. Many thanks to all who helped with this huge project; but a special thanks to Flo Mullane, who headed up the project and did lots of the work, and her husband, Nick, who painted the men's room (including the ceiling) all on his own.

We were all fascinated by Terri Guerette's program on silk weaving on Jan. 10. She showed us the process from cocoon to beautiful, finished knitted shawl.

Our March 14 program will be a surprise; but on the 28<sup>th</sup> our Lecturer will present her State program, "Three Cheers for the USA." This is one not to be missed. Sue has a habit of coming in first in the state with her State Lecturer's programs. And if that lovely, fluffy, white stuff that seems to keep dropping from the sky will just give us a break for a few weeks, next time I'll tell you all about fabulous February.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Mar. 6:** In Like a Lamb, CWA in charge of program

**Apr. 3:** Youth and young at heart in charge of program

**Apr. 5:** We host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall

**May 1:** Memorial Service - CWA Bake-Off, Ag Comm. in charge of program.

**May 17:** Fourth Annual Plant & Food Sale

Lucky for us our meeting night fell between all the snowstorms. A few brave members attended.

We're looking for items for the food portion of our food and plant sale in May. Seems many have previous commitments that prevent them from attending. However, they can donate food and plants.

We each wrote a Valentine to be sent to Virginia Gardner, our oldest member.

The Deputy sent a notice for our inspection in May.

Hope we're ready.

I'm writing this during the first week of February

and usually my snowdrops

are up- not in bloom- but up by now- I don't see

hare of them so far.

We welcome spring!



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# The Art of Delegation

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

"Even 'Super You' needs help and support. There is no shame in asking for assistance. Push aside the pride and show respect for the talent others can bring to the table.

And, remember that there is no such thing as a single-handed success: when you include and acknowledge all those in your corner, you propel yourself, your teammates and your supporters to greater heights."

- Author Unknown

You know your Grange inside and out. You know about its history, projects and activities like the back of your hand. But are you the best person to always be the spokesperson for your Grange?

Do you find it hard to fit in everything that needs to be done for your Grange? Do you find yourself perpetually tired and frustrated?

Is it always the same person who sets up the hall before a meeting, and then mows the lawn and cleans the kitchen and the bathrooms? Many Granges find that oftentimes it is the same person handling all the tasks at hand.

Sharing responsibility is important. Do your Grange leaders delegate or do they just take care of everything themselves? Many times members will not automatically step up and volunteer to take on a task unless they are specifically asked to do so for fear of stepping on toes or hurting others feelings. This is where delegation comes into play.

It's easy to say that delegation is what needs to happen in every Grange, but it's always not so easy to do. "If I want it done, it's easier to do it myself." It's a critical decision to decide which tasks to delegate and which tasks to handle personally.

The first step to effective delegation is knowing which tasks are yours and which tasks others can achieve success with. Match the skills then present the task as an opportunity, not as an assignment. Never undermine your membership. Develop ways to share the workload so that your Grange can reach its potential and grow



its membership. There are different levels of delegation and it is important to know ahead of time what your members skill sets are, and how much responsibility they can reasonably handle.

In order for delegation to be successful, there are a few steps that apply to all situations.

- 1.) Define the task to delegate
- 2.) Select the person/team to delegate to
- 3.) Assess ability, responsibility and capability
- 4.) Explain the reasoning behind delegating the task
- 5.) Clearly state accountability and the expected results
- 6.) Discuss any guidelines and deadlines
- 7.) Communication and support are important - be there to answer questions as they arise
- 8.) Provide feedback then recognize and reward the efforts

No matter what stage of growth your Grange is at, one person doesn't have to wear all the hats and perform all the tasks. Look at the entire Grange when choosing tasks to delegate. Delegation means learning how to hand off some of the hats you wear to other people who will then wear them in your place.

Delegation is assigning specific tasks and responsibilities to others, but it is about more than just freeing up time. It is one of the most important aspects of leadership and management. Good delegation saves time, gains experience, encourages teamwork, saves money, develops leaders, motivates members, and may even groom a successor! Most important - good delegation prevents member burnout.

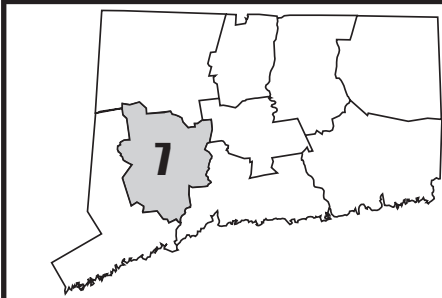
**Sources:** Article: "Successful Delegation - Using the Power of Other People's Help" - MindTools.com; Article: "Delegation" - Entrepreneur.com



## Prospect Grange St. Patrick's Tray Favors

These shamrock cups will be filled with candy and given to the patients of the local convalescent home for St. Patrick's Day.

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- ✓ Wolcott No. 173
- Oxford No. 194

### MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

Excelsior Pomona does not meet in April, but would like to remind everyone that the CWA projects will be judged at the May 20 degree rehearsal meeting. Also a reminder that the judging of the A Number and Talent Contest will be June 1 at 2 P.M. at Oxford Grange with a potluck dinner.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The March meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a program entitled "Maddening March." Don't know what that means but we will find out. Hostess for the meeting is Carole Mancini. Come and enjoy her Irish soda bread – it's delicious. Further plans for our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be made.

The members of Beacon Valley Grange congratulate and say how proud we are of one of our members Caroline O'Bar. Caroline is a member of the Beacon Falls Police Department. Her quick action saved the life of a man in trouble. The Connecticut State Police recently honored Caroline with a medal for lifesaving. The State Police said the man survived this life-threatening event due to Caroline's actions.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

**Mar. 24:** Meeting (Monday), 7:30 P.M.- Scotland the Brave- Ref. Rob & Skip

**Apr. 5:** Flea Market, 9-1

The Charter was draped in memory of Walter Castings.

Our Chaplain Shirley Petrillo is doing much better and we hope to see you soon.

A donation was made to

the Woodbury FFA for their use and thank you for doing the program in Nov. Our Flea Market will be Sat., Apr. 5 from 9-1. We need your help and stuff to sell. For tables call Linda at 203-264-8151.

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Prospect Grange will be celebrating Grange Month by giving the Public Service Award to the dedicated teachers in Region 16.

April 2, the teachers were gathered at Community School where certificates of appreciation were given out to the 208 teachers, principals, and vice principals in the Region 16 school system. These certificates were given to each of the educators for dedicating their lives to educating the young citizens of our community. Grange information along with a memento were given to them along with the certificate of appreciation for their work.

Valentines were made for the patients at the local convalescence home for Valentines Day and

150 Valentine place favprs were made for the annual Senior Center Valentine Day Party at the center. Members are working on favors for the St Patrick's Day party at the local convalescent home and Easter favors to help them celebrate Easter.

The April meeting will be a neighbors night about dairies as April has traditionally been Dairy month.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings at 7:30 p.m. down stairs at the Prospect Senior Center.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We held our monthly meeting on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2 P.M. at St. Mark's Church in Bridgewater. The church is next door to the Grange Hall which is closed for the winter months. Our next meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2 P.M. at St. Mark's. Our biggest topic is the flag project for the Town of Bridgewater.

### WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Corr: Cathy Kirschbaum

Thank you to everyone who attended our Craft Fair, Prom Extravaganza, Talent Show, Bonfires, potlucks, clean-ups, awards ceremonies, MS Walk, and community outreach.

We created a picnic area, replaced our handicapped ramp, repaired and redecorated, and had a parking lot installed.

Five youth ambassadors were appointed to host events and go out into the community to perform random acts of kindness.

The "Sending Smiles" program was created to deliver smiles to residents each month which included flower bouquets, gift cards, greeting cards, Christmas trees, fruit baskets, concert tickets, baby items, toys, prayer books, etc.

In spring 2014 we are starting a community garden to support the Food Share and Senior Center.

Our Grange is available for rental for your upcoming events.

You can join us on Facebook at Friends of Wolcott Grange.

We have created a "2014 Wall of Sponsors" to keep our good efforts going. Please sponsor us as a Grange or as an individual.

Wolcott Grange Sponsorship Program: \$10-50 – Friend; \$100 – Silver Sponsor; \$250 – Gold Sponsor; \$500 – Platinum Sponsor; \$1,000+ - Diamond Sponsor. With your donation, please include the name to be displayed and checks should be made out to Wolcott Grange and mailed to Jack Kirschbaum, Treasurer, 54 Spindle Hill Rd., Wolcott, CT 06716.

## Wolcott Jean Collection



One of Wolcott Grange's youngest volunteers Makendra collected 196 pairs of jeans to donate to kids and people in need. Makendra and her mother Karen Mowad continue to set the pace at our Grange. Great Work!!

## Oxford Small Business Fair



Oxford Grange is planning a small business fair to highlight the local businesses in Oxford and the immediate surrounding area. The fair will be held at our Grange hall, located on Route 67 in the center of

Oxford, on May 3, 2014. The event will start at 9:00 am.

The fair will be an excellent low cost means for local businesses to advertise their goods and services to the general public via booths and/or demonstrations. The cost for a Eight foot table size booth will be \$15.00. Weather permitting, larger spaces outside will also be available.

Those businesses that are interested in more information may contact either: Maggie Buck at 203-264-0462 or Audrey Wellner at 203-268-3528.

## Oxford Gardening Programs



Oxford Grange is hosting a series of gardening programs this spring, with such topics as planting, pest control and seeds. The next installment will be held on March 13th at 7:00 PM on

the topic of Outdoor and Container Planting. It is free and open to the general public.

The series began back on February 13th with a session on Composting and Garden Prep, and the second installment was held on February 27, where the discussion was on how to choose seeds for planting. The program will consist of six sessions and will run for three months with two sessions per month.

All sessions will be at Oxford Grange Hall located at 482 Oxford Rd/CT Route 67 in the center of Oxford, between the Oxford Center Firehouse and Center School.

While pre-registration is not required, it would be appreciated to better plan for the sessions. Contact Maggie Buck at 203-264-0462 to register, obtain more information, or e-mail equinehusband@aol.com with your intentions to attend the series.

The planned sessions are as follows:

February 13-composting, garden preparation, and starting seeds under grow-lights

February 27-choice of seeds for planting

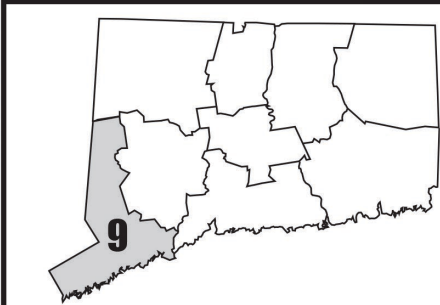
March 13-outdoor and container planting

March 27-round table discussion of topics to be chosen by attendees

April 10-pest control-weeds, insects and larger animal pests

April 24-seedling swap, discussion on garden problem solving, and fall gardening

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Fairfield County Pomona* is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

*Corr: George Ward*

**Mar. 14:** Regular Business and Program Meeting, (Weather Permitting).

The Lecturer's program will be "Irish Night". We expect our refreshments will be corned beef sandwiches and cabbage soup. These two items have been our "standard" for Irish night and they are both very delicious.

Our Secretary, Susan Sulier, has had eye surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We have elected and installed a new Treasurer. Deborah Riley resigned the position. Nancy Dikovskiy is our new Treasurer.

We need a Lady Assistant Steward to replace Nancy and one of our members has indicated she might take the position.

On March 5, Harmony will host Fairfield County Pomona Grange #9. A pot luck supper will precede the meeting. The School of Instruction for Pomona #9, presented by the State Master, will be part of the meeting.

The days are getting longer so Spring is right around the corner. Pea planting time will be at that corner.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Dennis Rich*

**Mar. 8:** "St. Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage Salute," 6 P.M. Dinner

**Mar. 17:** "Wear'n the Green," 7 P.M. Dinner

Our January meeting involved continued planning activities including our second Saturday fun and food events and our Annual Fair. We elected "officers" for the Fair to manage and fulfill tasks needed for coming August 23rd event.

Call (203) 367-4373 to RSVP for our Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on the 8th. At our March meeting, we expect to take in more new members via the Welcoming Ceremony. Bring gardening ideas to share!

In early April, the Penny Lane Players will be presenting Shakespear's Henry V on the 4-6 and 11-13. Performances are at 7 P.M. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 1 P.M. on Sundays. Come and enjoy the young talent and avail yourself of homemade baked goodies during intermission!

All our Grange friends are welcome at our activities, meetings, and farmer's markets (Saturdays 10-2).

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

*Corr: Lyn Kimberly*

**March 11:** @ 6:30 pm; St. Patrick's Day Celebration - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner - Hosts: Marie & Kevin Parker (\$5 Dinner Donation)

**Apr. 8:** @ 7:30 pm, "Grange Green Program" by Amie Guyette Hall & "Baking Contest" (Recipes Posted on Website & Facebook Pages).

**May 13:** @ 7:30 pm. All About Camp Berger/ Open House (ALL ARE WELCOME) Bring Your Own Stick for Bon Fire & S'mores!

By the time this goes to print the Barn Dance & Dinner - "Fiddles, Farms & Food" will be a happy memory. Over 200 people (of all ages) attended this amazing event. Legendary dance caller Billy Fischer and his merry group of fiddlers, the "Contra Band" Wry Bred, spiced up the winter evening on Saturday, February. 8th, at the Norfield Grange in Weston for some good, old-

fashioned fun. The evening started with a chili supper and corn bread made by award-winning chef Craig Charlton and those in attendance brought a bounty to share with a wide variety of snacks, appetizers, side dishes and desserts. This event was a community-building collaboration co-sponsored by the Norfield Grange and Wakeman Town Farm in Westport. And if you are in the neighborhood don't miss the Winter Farmers Market at Norfield Grange now in it's 4th season - featuring farm fresh seasonal produce, herbs, jams, jellies, honey, maple syrup, cheese, yogurt, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, seafood, baked goods, live plants, soap, body products, gift ideas, and more. The market runs every Saturday through May 3rd we hope you'll join us.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**April 3:** Business Meeting and program on Environmental Issues

**April 17:** Pot Luck Supper at 6 PM. Everyone brings a dish to pass.

**May 2:** State Contests and judging. Also, celebrating our 115th anniversary

**May 18:** Business Meeting and program on Home Arts.

**Aug. 24:** 82nd Agricultural Fair

We have a beautifully renovated kitchen that looks terrific. We love it, the caterers who use our Hall for party rentals love it. Many thanks to our Doug Shepherd who masterminded the renovation. Many thanks to John & Diana McConnell who donated the cabinets and refrigerator. And thanks to Michelle McDonald and Don Offinger who helped along the way.

John Kriz presented an informative program on Nutrition and healthy eating habits. John is certainly one who "walks the talk" and knows what he's talking about.

We're wondering what other Grange Halls are paying for electricity. In light of recent local news of increasing kwh costs here in Connecticut, we had a recent bill of nearly

14-cents per kwh (North American Power & CL&P), and are interested to know if other Grange Halls pay a similar amount. Would

survey.

Please note our event schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us

## Greenfield Hill Songbirds



Greenfield Hill Grange #133 presented the "Greenfield Hill Supper and Songbirds Concert - Pete Seeger Night" on Feb. 8. Dinner included wraps, soups and salads by our Master Chefs. Music was provided by John Root, Ralph Hohman and Beth Bradley.

What is the "Songbirds Singer Songwriter Circle?" This is a "Nashville Circle" Format. Three musicians / Acts share the stage. Everyone takes a turn (going around the circle) each act plays up to five songs.

If agreed upon, fellow musicians will play along with each other or may choose to do a solo - this is all discussed before the show. As it is a small stage, each "act" should not be more than two people. All instruments are acoustic, we cannot accommodate any amps. We provide a small sound system.



## SILENT MOVIE NIGHT

HOSTED BY CANNON GRANGE No. 152  
SATURDAY, MARCH 29 • 7:30 PM

DOUBLE FEATURE

• CHARLIE CHAPLIN •  
**THE CIRCUS**

• BUSTER KEATON •  
**COPS**

with live piano music played by Wilton's John Mucci

**CANNON GRANGE HALL**  
25 Cannon Road • Wilton, CT



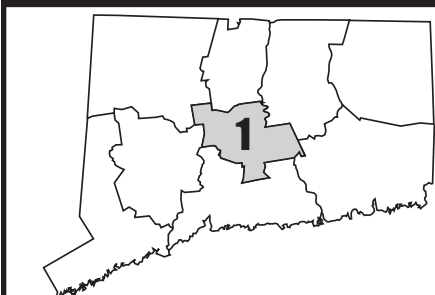
Parking available at the Cannondale RR Station, the Cannondale Village and at Cannon Grange Hall.

**ADMISSION:**  
\$6 PER PERSON • \$10 FOR TWO PERSONS  
ADULTS and STUDENTS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR BY CALLING 203-762-1900  
Visit us on the web: www.CannonGrange.org





# Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

### MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

### CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Robert Charbonneau

Due to a storm forecasted for our last meeting, it was decided by the Master and Executive Committee to cancel the Feb. 13 meeting for a rescheduled date of Thursday, March 13 at 7:30 P.M. As with the original meeting, it will be held at Higganum Grange Hall.

### MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

Hello Fellow Grangers, I'm sure we are all having the same goal, which is to stay warm this winter. Larry & I just returned from the Essex Ed Groundhog Day Parade and 6 more weeks of winter. We were interviewed for the New London Day newspaper. I enjoyed the National Grange position on President Obama's speech and how he could learn quite a bit from the Grange.

Our feline Grangers are

fairing during the cold snap and snow thanks to our concerned neighbors. I have heard some interesting discussions on the chemicals used to treat our roads and hopefully we will learn more from our Ecology Granger Michael.

I hope you got what you wanted on Valentine's Day, we learned about the Funny Papers so I guess you could say that Meriden Grange

had a Funny Valentine.

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Grange members welcomed Roseann Marchetti as a new member to Higganum Grange #124. Members made valentines to be delivered to the convalescent home. Darlene will represent Higganum Grange #124 at the "Grow Your Grange" program in

March. Inspection will be held in April. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of the month unless there is bad weather.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 14: Community Service Award

Mar. 28: CWA

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

# DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

## Spring is coming!

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

A special thank you to all of the Grange members who filled Norwich and Cheshire Grange Halls for the Feb. Community Grange Schools of Instruction. Nearly 150 members combined were in attendance. We remind everyone to let us know if there are any questions during the year. We are always available as a resource to all Granges. Special thanks also go to the members of Norwich and Cheshire Granges for opening and warming their halls for these meetings.

As we move into inspection season, we would like to remind Granges of what is needed on the night of inspection:

- 1) All financial records (Secretary & Treasurer)- including checkbooks, passbooks, ledgers, statements, orders on Treasurer, Treasurer's receipts, etc.
- 2) Minutes from the preceding 12 months of meetings.
- 3) Dues/Membership records
- 4) Current Executive Committee Report\*

### 5) Steward's Inventory Report\*

The two items in asterisks (Exec. Comm. Report & Steward's Inventory) are to be filed in advance of the Inspection with the General Deputy with copies made available for the Deputy to review on the night of inspection. The Executive Committee report aides the Deputy in reviewing the financial records of the Grange during the inspection.

As of the date of printing, no By-Laws have been received by the State Secretary while a few have been sent to me. PLEASE send copies of your most recent by-laws to the State Secretary as soon as possible (not to me). Those copies that I have received will be forwarded to her.

Executive Committee reports are trickling in VERY slowly... please send them in as soon as possible (we understand that there are a few Granges whose books closed on Dec. 31 and have until April 1).

Please let me or your Deputy know if you have any questions as you prepare for your inspection. We are here to help!

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing [submissions@ctstategrange.org](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



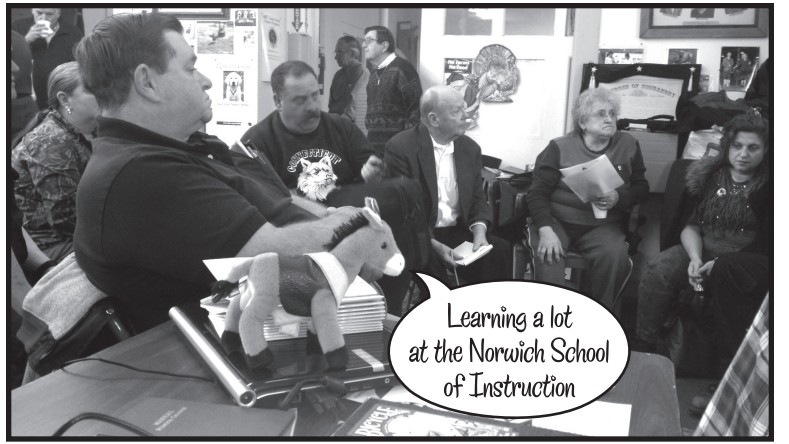
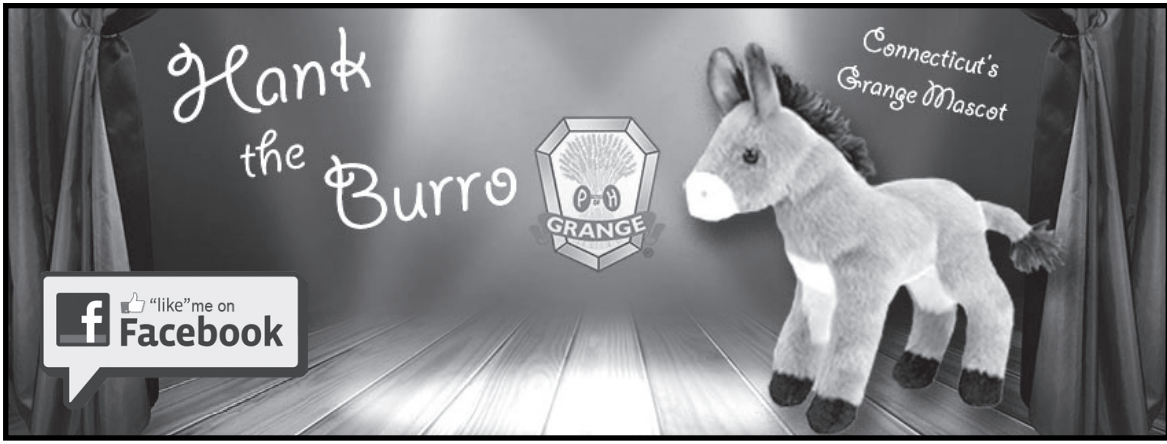
Last Month

We heard from Linda Coad on the February photo -- "There is no doubt that the third lady from the left is our beloved Estella Boyd from Pomperaug Grange." The remaining members are (from left) Mildred Bell, Phyllis Bierce, Estella Boyd, Gail Prelli, and State Master Frank Prelli.

## Norfield Grange Barn Dance



Over 200 people attended the hugely successful Barn Dance & Dinner at Norfield Grange in February. The event included 4 lines/bridges of dances with legendary caller Billy Fischer. The dance also featured a Contra Dance Circle and multi generations roasting marshmallows outside over a bonfire.



Greetings Grange Friends!

Wow - have I been really finding out what winter is all about! I've had a lot of snow-filled adventures.

On February 1st, I had the pleasure of attending Quinebaug Pomona's meeting. This was so much fun! I got to meet many new friends.

I also received a very special present that evening from Quinebaug Pomona Deputy Pat Valys who made me a fabulous sweater! I really need it during these cold winter days!

On February 8th, I attended the first CT State Grange School of Instruction which was held at Norwich Grange. It was nice to see all of my Grange friends - and meet new friends too! There's lots of Grange work to be done. I'm looking forward to a great Grange year ahead!

I attended the second CT State Grange School of Instruction which was held at Cheshire Grange on February 9th. There was lots of serious discussions and questions, as well as lots of interesting things to learn. I love learning new things about the Grange!

I learned a lot about Italy from Katie Hermonot at Ekonk Community Grange's meeting on February 10th. Katie spent a semester in Florence. You ROCK Katie.

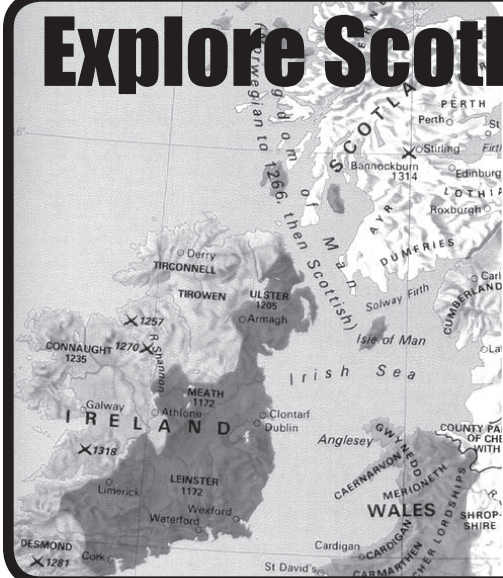
On February 11th I went to Mountain County Pomona Grange's meeting at Eureka Grange. I met many new friends, including Sandy Phillips! She splits her time between TWO Granges!!

I took a special opportunity to wish all of my friends a Happy Valentine's Day on February 14th! I am well on my way to reaching my 300th friend! I can't wait to see who it will be. Please take a moment and visit my Facebook Page at [www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro](http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro). While you're there, be sure to click the "Like" button so that you can follow all of my adventures. Won't you share my page and help me reach my next goal?

If you have a special event, please send me an invitation through my e-mail [HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org](mailto:HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org) with the details, and hopefully I can attend!



# Explore Scotland and Ireland with Colchester Grange



We invite people to join us as the group visits the following sights; Edinburg • Whisky Distillery • Inverness • Loch Ness • Loch Lomond • Glasgow • Belfast • Titanic Experience • Giant's Causeway • Derry • Glenveagh National Park • Ulster American Folk Park • Dublin • Irish Night. The trip is for 12 Days and includes 15 meals and transportation. Book early and the cost is \$3,649 Double and savings of \$250.00.

Please contact Cathy at [crussi45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crussi45@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-887-9621 for more information or have printed information mailed to you if interested. Please contact us as well if you are interested in joining us for the trip August 10 & 11, 2014 to Cape Cod to see the Boston Pops and see much more!

# Old MacDonald is getting older

By Mary Clare Jalonick, Waterbury Republican-AP, 2/21/14

The number of U.S. farms is declining even as the value of their crops and livestock has increased over the past five years, a government census of American agriculture released Thursday says.

The survey, taken every five years, shows there were a total of 2.1 million farms in the United States in 2012, down a little more than 4 percent from 2007. That follows a long-term trend of declining numbers of farms.

Also, farmers are getting older – the average age was

58.3 years. But Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak points to a bright spot: a small rise in the number of farmers between 25 and 34 years old.

Vilsak says the boost in the number of younger farmers is partly due to increased interest in government support for locally grown foods and a thriving export market. Many younger farmers work at smaller operations, where the boom in the farm economy and a rising consumer interest in where food is grown have helped them.

That boom has been good to

all of farm country: According to the survey, the market values of crops, livestock and total agricultural products were all at record highs. Farms in the United States sold almost \$395 billion in products in 2012, 33 percent higher than in 2007.

Still, farmers are aging. According to the census, a third of farmers were older than 65 in 2012.

“The reality is, over time those folks won’t be able to continue farming, and the question for all of us is, if they don’t who will?” Vilsak said after the report was released.

# The trend is better in Connecticut

**HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)**—The number of farms in Connecticut jumped by 22 percent over five years, bucking a national trend in which the total declined country-wide, a federal census reported Thursday.

The survey, which is taken every five years, shows 5,977 farms in 2012, up from 4,916 in 2007. Farm size also was up, to 436,405 acres from 405,616 acres, an 8 percent rise.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said in a news release hailing the census results that he expects farm size to increase with more land being brought into production as a result of the Farmland Restoration Program he initiated.

George Krivda, legislative program manager at the state Department of Agriculture, called the census results good news and said part of the credit goes to rising demand for

locally grown food. “All of it is great, and it all speaks to the average consumer who’s more in touch with where food comes,” he said.

The positive results also were helped by state efforts enlisting farmers to participate in the survey, Krivda said.

Possibly due to the deep recession and weak economic recovery, the market value of agricultural products sold fell slightly, to \$550.6 million from \$551.5 million.

Nationally, the market value of crops, livestock and total agricultural products were at record highs. Farms in the United States sold almost \$395 billion in products in 2012, 33 percent higher than in 2007.

Unlike in Connecticut, across the United States, 2.1 million farms operated in 2012, down about 4 percent from 2007. That follows a long-term trend of declining

numbers nationally. Krivda said state officials are cautious in their response to the survey, saying the statistics could be slightly off because of what may be counted.

“We’re not giddy with unrealistic, unsubstantiated happiness,” he said. “We think we’ve done a better job helping our farmer, but I wouldn’t want to live or die on the statistics.”

Connecticut’s farm sector is small relative to other states. For example, its acreage is dwarfed by Maine, where farms totaled nearly 1.5 million acres. Krivda said Connecticut’s energy costs are higher because unlike Maine, it does not have access to abundant hydropower.

Still, agriculture officials were buoyed by the survey’s results.

“It’s validation that we’re on the right track,” Krivda said.

# Made in Rural America

Allison Paisner, National Grange Intern

Nope, I’m not referring to Budweiser or Whoopi Goldberg movies. I’m referring to President Obama’s newest initiative aimed at enhancing rural businesses competitiveness abroad. On Friday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the same day Obama signed the Farm Bill into law, he also announced a new program in which the White House Office of the Press Secretary immediately released a fact sheet entitled “Opportunity For All: Establishing a New ‘Made In Rural America’ Export and Investment Initiative.” The fact sheet can be found here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/07/fact-sheet-opportunity-all-establishing-new-made->

rural-america-export.an Among the seven main commitments provisioned in the initiative, to be carried out over a span of nine months and overseen by the White House Rural Council, the ultimate goal is to “help rural businesses and leaders take advantage of new investment opportunities and access new customers and markets abroad.” Obama plans on achieving this goal by establishing valuable connections and teaching relevant business skills. In other words, if this initiative is done right, it can actually accomplish something productive and substantially beneficial for the nation. The highlights of the initiative include five “Made in Rural America” regional conferences offering rural leaders and

businesses viable resources available to expand exports, an “Investing in Rural America” networking conference, training sessions in all 50 states for local USDA Rural Development Staff to teach necessary tools to help counsel on and connect businesses to export opportunities, and promotion of rural-produced goods across the Administration.

So what is the relevance of “Made in Rural America?” Let me put it into terms of an everyday situation: does it ever feel like you can reach for an article of clothing, or really anything off the shelf at a retail or electronic store for that matter, and predict that the tag will read: Made in China? Not that this is necessarily a bad thing, but I feel this way a lot. I think

# Family Activities

## Good News - Bad News!

Received new information from National regarding the Quilt Block Contest.

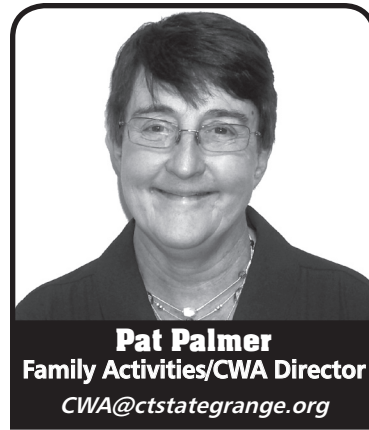
Good News - It is the same pattern that was published in last month’s Granger with the same color scheme. They have also added two additional categories - same pattern - quilted throw pillow

finished size 18” x 18” - finished, batted and backed and a quilted table runner size 17” x 56” - also finished.

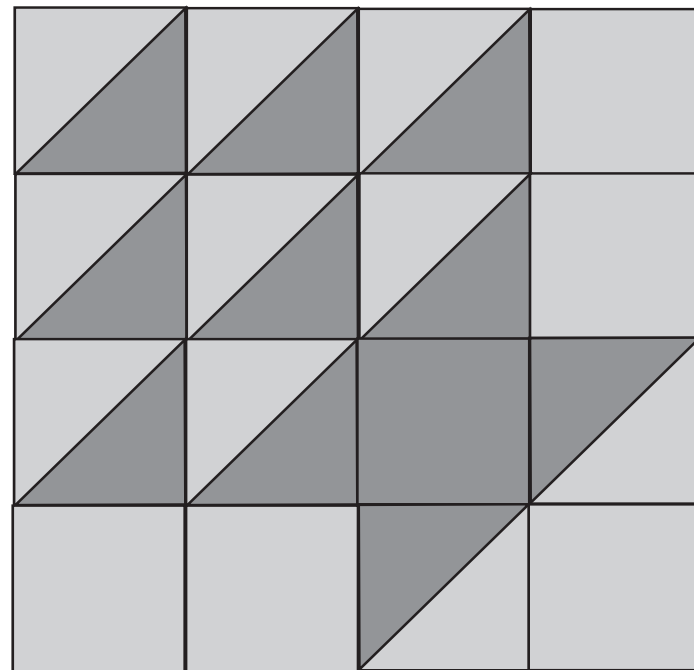
Bad News - all entries will have to be done by Let’s Celebrate in June as they have to be to National by September - well before State Session AND ALL ENTRIES become the property of the National Grange.

All pertinent information, including entry blank information, has been sent to the Pomona Family Activities chairmen. If you have any questions you can contact them or myself.

Sorry about the lateness of this information - just received it from National.



## Flower Basket - 12 Inch Block



Obama feels the same way, as the tangible result of this initiative would be to see an increase in rural America’s sales abroad, with more products labeled “Made in the USA”. While these efforts to export abroad probably won’t dilute the number of “Made in China” products we see on our shelves, hopefully the US will be able to surpass its 2013 record for agricultural exports marked at \$144.1 billion. And even though we wouldn’t normally associate “Made in China” products with agriculture (seeing as most of the products labeled such are electronic or retail), I think there is merit in calling for increased exports of rural American products. These products most notably include wheat, rice, coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and tobacco. Back to my original example, although we may not see a change in the number of imported products here in the US, other countries will most certainly notice

an increase in American-made products when they go reaching for products on their store shelves.

In this sense, I do have to give some credit where credit is due to the Administration for choosing to focus on the education and networking of work that is required for increasing exports. This means that, ideally, not only will exports increase, but the tools garnered during the process will be valuable skills that continue to be employed in the future as well. However, there is a huge difference between saying that something will be done and actually fulfilling it to fruition, especially considering that “Made in Rural America” was announced not even a week ago. It’s easy to announce a program with seven provisions that call for commitment to action. The hard part, and the next step, is to see them through. You gave yourself nine months, Obama. On your mark, get set, go!

**AGRICULTURE:**  
365 Sunrises and  
7 Billion Mouths to Feed

**NATIONAL  
AG DAY**

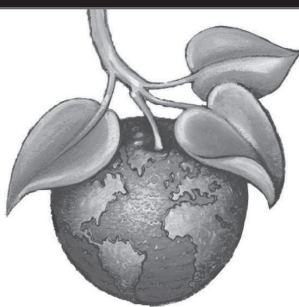


**NATIONAL AG DAY: MARCH 25, 2014**

America's farmers share a commitment to protecting the land and meeting the demands of a burgeoning population. Farm families are up before the sun, day in and day out to put food on the table for us.

Help share the story of how our farmers feed, fuel and clothe the world 365 days a year. Be a part of National AgDay 2014.

[www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org)



**FarmProgress**  
PROUD TO BE A  
NATIONAL AG DAY  
PARTNER

**Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
announces Louis Magnarelli Memorial Fund**



**Louis A. Magnarelli**

(New Haven, CT) – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Research Foundation, Inc. and the Board of Control of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station are pleased to announce the establishment of the Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund.

The Louis A. Magnarelli Fund commemorates the life and work of Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli. Throughout his career at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Magnarelli maintained his unwavering commitment to the Station's motto "Putting science to work for society."

Dr. Magnarelli joined the Experiment Station in July 1975 and his work on ticks, tick-associated diseases, and serological testing for vector-borne pathogens are recognized internationally. Through the course of a career that spanned four decades, he served as Chief Entomologist and State Entomologist from 1987-2004, Vice Director from 1992-2004, and was appointed the Station's eighth Director in 2004. As part of Dr. Magnarelli's regulatory responsibilities, he oversaw quarantines on many insect pests, plant pests, and plant pathogens to protect Connecticut. However, he fully recognized

the economic impacts these decisions had on citizens and always listened intently to those who voiced their concerns.

The Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund will be used by the Station's Board of Control to create a physical memorial on the New Haven campus to honor Dr. Magnarelli and to support the Board of Control's Louis A. Magnarelli Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship program. More detailed information about the memorial fund and how to make a contribution can be found at: [www.ct.gov/caes/foundation](http://www.ct.gov/caes/foundation).

**More "Friends of Rural America" needed**

*Grace Boatright, National Legislative Director*

We're making progress! Nearly 600 Grange members and counting have signed the petition to become a "Friend of Rural America." If you're one of those, stop reading now. However, if you're not, please take the time to become one today.

The 10,000 Friends of Rural Campaign, of which the Grange is now a devoted member, is working to get a minimum of 10,000 people to sign the petition as a way of showing legislators, businesses, etc. that Rural America does matter and that they need to invest some time and money in Rural America's future. 10,000 Friends of Rural

**In Memoriam**

Vera Boukus	Manchester Grange #31
Vincent F. Scarpino, G.S.	Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
Edwin Bill, G.S.	North Stonington Community Grange #138
Virginia Butler, G.S.	Riverton Grange #169

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

**Chaplain's Message**



**Barbara C. Kulisch**  
State Chaplain  
[chaplain@ctstategrange.org](mailto:chaplain@ctstategrange.org)



**The World is Mine**

*Author Unknown*

Upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman.  
When suddenly she rose to leave,  
I saw her hobble down the aisle.  
She had one leg and used a crutch.  
But as she passed, she had a smile.

I stopped to buy some candy.  
The lad who sold it had so much charm.  
I talked with him, he seemed so glad.  
And as I left, he said to me,  
"I thank you, you've been so kind.  
It's nice to talk with folks like you.  
You see," he said, "I'm blind."

Later while walking down the street,  
I saw a child I knew.  
He stood and watched the others play,  
but he did not know what to do.  
I stopped a moment and then I said,  
"Why don't you join them dear?"  
He looked ahead without a word.  
I forgot, he couldn't hear.

With feet to take me where I'd go.  
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.  
With ears to hear what I'd know.  
Oh, God, Forgive me when I whine.  
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

If this poem makes you feel thankful,  
share it with your friends.  
After all, it's just a simple reminder  
that we have so much to be thankful for!  
Give the gift of love.  
It never comes back empty.

America is NOT a lobbying effort. It is a simple way of getting people to think about and appreciate the vital resources that Rural America provides to our country and the world. All you need to do is go to <http://10000friends.ruralamerica.org/national-grange/> fill out the form and click "submit." It shouldn't take more than 5 minutes of your time! Surely you can spare 5 minutes to show your support for Rural America. Please take the time to do this and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Together, we're going to elevate Rural America and get them the appreciation and resources they need and deserve. Thanks, Grangers!