



## MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER: HOST A COMMUNITY CONTEST FOR AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup>

by **Amanda Brozana**  
*National Grange Membership  
& Leadership Development Director*

In July 2026, the United States will mark its semiquincentennial – 250 years of striving, building, and dreaming together.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime milestone, and people everywhere will be looking for a story they can tell their grandchildren about "what I did for America 250." Your Grange can help them write that story—literally—by sponsoring a fun, engaging community contest that puts local talent, hometown pride, and Grange fellowship on center stage.

### Why a Contest?

Contests create memories. Whether it's a pie-baking showdown, a youth essay challenge, or a yard-decorating competition, friendly rivalry turns an anniversary into a personal adventure. Participants get bragging rights, spectators get entertainment, and the whole community gains a feel-good moment they'll retell for years.

Contests forge connections. The judges' table needs volunteers, prizes need sponsors, and entries need cheerleaders. Every role is an

invitation for neighbors—long-time members, brand-new residents, and curious onlookers—to collaborate with the Grange. Those casual contacts often blossom into lasting membership.

Contests showcase the Grange brand. From our earliest fairs to today's digital forums, the Grange has excelled at bringing people together around shared skills and hometown hospitality. A well-run contest reminds the public that the Grange is still the go-to place for community-building—and that we do it with integrity, inclusivity, and a dash of fun.

### We'll Do the Heavy Lifting

To make launching a contest as easy as lighting a birthday candle, the National Grange will release a digital America 250 Contest Toolkit this fall. Here's what you'll find inside:

- Turn-key contest templates. Pie bake-offs, photography exhibitions, quilt squares, children's chalk-art, pickle canning—you'll receive proven contest frameworks with age divisions, judging criteria, and tie-breaker rules. Prefer



## IN THIS ISSUE

Make History Together: Host a Community Contest for America's 250 <sup>th</sup> .....	1
Two State Granges Welcome new Presidents .....	2
Grange Foundation accepting Board of Directors nominations .....	2
View from the Hill .....	4
How Technology Is Helping Older Adults Thrive in Rural America ....	6
3 Things Every Older Adult Should Do for Their Health This Fall .....	7
Save the Date: National Grange Honors Night .....	7
Grange Member Benefit: Harvest Hosts .....	8
Have you Registered? .....	9
Hamp Watch: Where was our National Grange President This Month? ...	10
Recipes from the Heartland .....	11
Grange Store: Prepare for State Conventions .....	12

GRANGE STRONG



*continued on page 3*

# TWO STATE GRANGES WELCOME NEW PRESIDENTS

As State Granges across the country have been holding their annual business meetings and conventions, a change in leadership has occurred in two states. The National Grange sends our congratulations to Douglas Baldwin (IA) and David Allen (NC) who were elected into their new roles in the past few weeks.

Baldwin succeeds his father, Dwight, who served as Iowa State Grange President and Allen succeeds North Carolina Grange President Jimmy Gentry. Both Dwight and Jimmy had served as President of their State Granges for more than 20 years.

Douglas Baldwin, a member of Amboy Grange #2102 in Kellogg, was installed at the 156th Annual Iowa State Grange Convention held in Kellogg, Iowa, on September 6, as their President. Before his election, he served the organization as Vice President.

Baldwin's Grange career began in 1996, when he turned 14 and was eligible to join Amboy Grange. He has served as a Youth ambassador, Youth officer, Youth Director, and Community Service Director for the Iowa State Grange.

Doug lives in Newton, Iowa. Doug retired from the Air Force and the Iowa Air National Guard in 2024 after 20 years of service, during which he was deployed to Afghanistan, Germany, Australia, and Jordan. Currently, he is helping a neighbor with his farm and ranch.

David Allen was elected President of the North Carolina State Grange at the annual session on September 13, 2025. David was introduced to the Grange by his wife, Crystal, who has been a lifelong member. David has been active in his subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange, and State Grange for over twenty years, holding offices at each level. He was elected to the NC State Grange Executive Committee in 2007, serving until his election as Vice President in 2021. David also serves as the Gatekeeper of the National Grange.

David worked a thirty-year law enforcement career, retiring in 2017 as the Chief of the

Cleveland Police Department. During his career, he was active in the North Carolina Police Executives Association, where he served on the Board of Directors for over ten years and served as the President of the Association from 2011 to 2012.

David and Crystal own and operate Tranquility Farm, a Muscadine Vineyard, where they raise and sell fresh Muscadines, Blackberries, and an assortment of value-added products such as juice, jelly, and cider. David is a certified beekeeper, also selling honey from the farm.

Congratulations Doug and David!



**New Presidents elected in two State Granges. Top: Doug Baldwin, Iowa State Grange; Bottom: David Allen, North Carolina State Grange.**  
*Photos Provided*

## ACCEPTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The Grange Foundation will accept nominations for members of the Board of Directors through Close of Business on October 13.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, bio, and a headshot to [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) and [champ@nationalgrange.org](mailto:champ@nationalgrange.org).

*The election will occur during a special pre-Convention Zoom meeting on October 28th at 8pm ET.*



a beard-growing or drone-filming contest instead? Each template includes “flex points” so you can swap categories or scoring weights without reinventing the wheel.

- Fillable promotional materials. Editable flyers, social-media graphics, press-release shells, and event-day signage come pre-formatted in patriotic red, white, and blue. Just type in your Grange name, date, and contact info, then print or post.
- Judging matrices and score sheets. We'll supply rubric grids that balance technical merit and creative flair, plus easy-to-follow instructions for your volunteer judges. No more scratching tallies on scrap paper; everything totals automatically.
- Project-planning checklists. From first brainstorming meeting to final thank-you note, you'll have a step-by-step schedule that keeps the committee on track. Time-savvy shortcuts highlight when to order ribbons, book equipment, or line up local media coverage.
- Sponsorship and partnership tips and a sample letter. Tips, a talking-points sheet and a sample letter help you approach other civic clubs, credit unions, local businesses, media outlets or tourist bureaus that might donate prizes or co-brand the event.

## Five Quick Tips for Contest Success

1. **Pick a theme that sings locally.** “American Ingenuity” could inspire a maker fair in a tech town while “Our Agricultural Roots” might spark a zucchini race where contestants attach squash to wheeled bases and race them down a ramp—no



**From pie bake-offs to essay contests to beard-growing, there's no end to the kind of contests you can create to celebrate a bit of Americana for the country's 250th birthday!**

*Photo licensed via AdobeStock*

motors or weights allowed. Align the contest with your community's heritage and passions.

2. **Invite every age.** Multigenerational events reflect the Grange's fraternal spirit. Pair a youth coloring contest with an adult photography class; the buzz of kids' excitement often draws their parents through your hall doors.
3. **Tell the story while it's happening.** Snap behind-the-scenes photos of setup, livestream judging highlights, and post winner interviews. The more your neighbors see friendly faces at Grange events, the more likely they'll show up next time.
4. **Celebrate all participants.** Ribbons and plaques are great, but don't stop there. Feature every entry in an online gallery, publish recipes in the local paper, or host a post-contest exhibit. Recognition today becomes nostalgia tomorrow—and nostalgia keeps your Grange top-of-mind.
5. **Follow up, follow up, follow up.** Within a week, send thank-

you notes to sponsors, judges, and volunteers; post a wrap-up article on social media; and invite contestants to your next meeting or potluck. Momentum is membership gold.

## Your Next Step

Set aside 20 minutes at your next Grange meeting to choose a contest concept and appoint a small planning committee. Once the National Grange releases the America 250 Contest Toolkit, you'll be ready to plug in dates and details.

Let's Make 2026 a Year of Community Stories

Two hundred fifty years ago, ordinary colonists decided to do something extraordinary together. In 2026, ordinary townspeople can echo that spirit by gathering around a pie, a painting, a perfectly carved wooden eagle—whatever sparks local pride. Your Grange can be the catalyst.

Give your neighbors a contest they'll talk about at cookouts and class reunions long after the fireworks fade. Give them a reason to walk through your doors and discover the fellowship and purpose that define the Grange. And give America 250 the grassroots celebration it deserves.

***Ready, set—let the contests begin!***





# NATIONAL GRANGE

## OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### *View from the Hill*



## NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY UPDATES & ISSUE NEWS

September 2025

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

#### Screwworm scare closer than ever

Agriculture producers, wildlife agencies, and pet owners are more concerned than ever after a case of New World screwworm has been confirmed less than 70 miles south of the Texas border in Mexico. The previous northernmost case detection was 370 miles farther south. Cattle, bison, and horse imports from Mexico have remained suspended since midsummer. Screwworm fly larvae feed on live flesh and can lead to serious injury and even death of their host. Last spring, the USDA announced the expansion of numerous interventions with Mexico to control and eradicate the screwworm fly.

#### MarketAid for Farmers

Secretary of Agriculture Booke Rollins says USDA officials are keeping a close eye on commodity markets to determine if farmers will need help this fall to keep their operations afloat. House Agriculture Committee chairman Glenn Thompson is shopping the idea of including farm payments in the upcoming "skinny" or "farm bill 2.2" this fall. Thompson has suggested that tariff revenues could be used to keep farmers financially stable, but some trade attorneys say that may not be legal. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman is open to similar market support. This is in response to falling prices for farm crops. Commodity prices have remained low, and trade disruptions have chipped away at export markets. China, for example, is the United States' largest buyer of soybeans but has yet to book any soybeans for shipment from this year's harvest. In a recent survey by *Farm Journal*, 46% of the farmers surveyed believe the U.S. is on the brink of a farm crisis.

#### More rural veterinarians

The USDA plans to help pay off veterinary school debt for veterinarians in rural areas where shortages are most acute. Numerous studies have pointed out the decline in rural vets over the past several decades. A recent study by the Farm Journal Foundation found that approximately 500 rural counties nationwide are in need of large animal veterinarians. The National Grange has been supporting these efforts for several years.

#### Producers watching USDA reorganization plans closely

Farmers and ranchers want to be sure the USDA continues to provide the services needed by the agriculture sector. Recent reductions in staffing levels at all agencies within USDA, the relocation of staff to five regional hubs around the country, and the planned closure of its Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland are among their concerns. The Beltsville center has long been considered the cornerstone of US agricultural science.

The loss of staff expertise and their years of experience could potentially adversely affect food production if the reorganization fails to live up to expectations.

### CONSERVATION

#### Conservation Reserve enrollments announced

The USDA has accepted an additional 1.78 million acres into its Conservation Reserve Program for 2025. The Conservation Reserve Program is the agency's flagship conservation program, where landowners, farmers, and ranchers voluntarily convert marginal or unproductive cropland into vegetative cover that prevents soil erosion, restores wildlife habitat, and improves water quality.

### HEALTH CARE

#### Key cancer bill moves in Congress

In mid-September, National Grange president Chris Hamp wrote to members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, expressing strong support for H.R. 842, the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (MCED). The Act gives Medicare the authority to cover breakthrough early detection technology that can discover any one of a large number of cancers with a simple blood draw. The Ways and Means Committee subsequently unanimously passed the bill. The Health Subcommittee held a hearing where the MCED received strong support from witnesses and subcommittee members. The legislation enjoys 304 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 62 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and is a high priority for the National Grange.

#### Hamp goes to bat for kidney patients

National Grange president Chris Hamp wrote Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to urge CMS to restore Phosphate Lowering Therapies (PLTs) to Medicare Part D coverage. This would allow rural patients access to these therapies from their local pharmacy, which may be hours closer than their dialysis center. PLTs are essential to maintaining phosphorus balance and preventing life-threatening complications during dialysis.

#### Save our air ambulance services

The National Grange joined emergency air medical services providers to voice support for the Protecting Air Ambulance Service for Americans Act. In a letter to bipartisan leaders of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committees, the groups addressed the dangerously outdated

Medicare reimbursement rate for emergency air medical services, which operate as flying ICUs. These services are vital for residents in rural and remote areas. Approximately 40% of air ambulance patients are covered by Medicare. The Medicare reimbursement rate only covers 59% of actual costs of patient transportation. In the last two years, 39 air ambulance bases have closed.

### **PBM reform will lower drug prices**

The National Grange partnered with the National Community Pharmacists Association and 120 additional pharmacy, patient, employer, and small business groups to urge the Senate and House leadership to move legislation for Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform. PBMs are entities that operate between drug manufacturers and patients in a way that keeps prescription drug prices high. Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both chambers to delink drug prices from PBM revenues, mandate that savings go to employers, workers, and their families, require transparency, and support pharmacies' ability to serve patients.

## **IMMIGRATION / AG WORKFORCE**

### **Agriculture is waiting for labor relief**

Labor for the agriculture sector is a growing crisis. Several administration officials continue to signal that relief is coming to provide a pathway for agriculture to get the immigrant labor it needs to harvest crops, milk cows, and tend to livestock. Agriculture Secretary Rollins says the White House is actively working on such a plan. President Trump continues to assure farmers that he has their back and will distinguish "criminals" and "murderers" from nonthreatening farm workers who have been working on American farms and ranches for years. In a recent news interview, Border Czar Tom Homan emphasized the importance of the U.S. creating a path forward so that farms and ranches can have a legal and stable workforce. That plan cannot come too soon for producers. In the meantime, the administration recently improved the H-2A seasonal and temporary immigrant program by making it easier to renew those particular ag worker visas.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **Hamp featured in op-ed**

FirstNet is a nationwide public safety communications network designed by first responders for first responders to allow nationwide connectivity between departments and jurisdictions. Congress must reauthorize the FirstNet program for it to continue. National Grange president Chris Hamp was recently featured in the Spokane Spokesman-Review with an opinion editorial entitled Public Safety Does Not End at the City Limits. In the op-ed, Hamp provided an example of FirstNet utilization during the Bertschi Road Fire, which burned in Klickitat County, a rural area of Washington state. She said FirstNet made a big difference in bringing that fire under control and called on Congress to reauthorize FirstNet as part of the critical infrastructure needed to keep rural residents safe.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Improve and modernize rural roads and bridges**

Many roads and bridges in rural areas badly need

modernization to address outdated designs, weight restrictions, capacity limitations, and safety challenges. The National Grange and 59 other state and national agriculture and agribusiness organizations have expressed support for H.R.4585, the Agricultural and Rural Road Improvement Program Act. In a letter to the leadership of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Highway and Transit Subcommittee, the groups urged action on the bill, which would reprioritize \$1.5 billion over five years in existing highway formula funds toward replacing or rehabilitating rural bridges to eliminate posted weight limits, providing for increasing access to farms and agricultural facilities, and improving highway safety.

### **Updates to seasonal ag CDL needed**

Improvements are needed to the Farm-Related Restricted Commercial Driver's License (Seasonal Ag CDL) according to the National Grange and 69 other agriculture-related groups. The groups referred to legislation (H.R. 4601) introduced by Representative Mann of Kansas and 20 cosponsors in a letter to the leadership of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. Under the legislation, implements and vehicles designed for farm use will not be classified as commercial motor vehicles. In addition, Ag CDLs could be renewed online.

### **VIEW FROM THE HILL**

is written and compiled by

**Burton Eller**

National Grange

Legislative Director

[beller@nationalgrange.org](mailto:beller@nationalgrange.org)



## **PERSPECTIVES**

*"The harder I work, the luckier I get."*

- Samuel Goldwyn, film producer

*"Luck? I don't know anything about luck. I've never banked on it and I'm afraid of people who do. Luck to me is something else: Hard work, and realizing what is opportunity and what isn't."*

- Lucille Ball, actress, comedian, and studio executive

*"I believe luck is preparation meeting opportunity. If you hadn't been prepared when the opportunity came, you wouldn't have been lucky."*

- Oprah Winfrey, television personality & philanthropist

*"All that matters in business is that you get it right once. Then everyone can tell you how lucky you are."*

- Mark Cuban, businessman & television personality

*"The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself."*

- Douglas MacArthur, WWII General and Commander of the United Nations Command

# HOW TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING OLDER ADULTS THRIVE IN RURAL AMERICA

by Debra Berlyn

Executive Director, Project GOAL

Originally published by the National Council On Aging

Republished with permission

Technology cannot fill in all the social services and specialized health care gaps for older adults living in rural America. But there are dynamic advances and innovations in technology here today, as well as on the horizon, that offer support for the estimated one in five of all adults 65+ living in rural communities.

Here are some examples of the innovations available now, or that will soon launch, that can help rural Americans stay in their own homes, age well, and live a full life.

## Building the broadband network

For older adults living in rural communities, having a high-speed connection to enable technology access and improved communications is essential. Internet service providers continue to expand broadband infrastructure in rural areas to offer reliable, high-speed connections to rural homes.

A high-speed connection provides the necessary access for an older adult to connect a device at home and have the opportunity for advanced services, such as telehealth, remote health monitoring, video streaming, and much more.

In addition, satellites can also provide a broadband connection for rural areas. For example, [Project Kuiper](#), an offering from Amazon, is starting to roll-out Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites that are able to offer reliable broadband to customers and communities around the world. Its initial application promises to serve as an option in difficult to reach rural areas.

## AI-empowered tech for rural communities

### Health care and telehealth

Innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications are moving opportunities forward in health care and telehealth for older adults, particularly those living in rural areas.

AI has led to significant developments in the advancement of diagnosing and treating illnesses, as well as offering health care providers the opportunity to make better-informed decisions. The [economy for the global health care market](#) and AI has skyrocketed. It was valued at \$16.61 billion in 2024 for the total value of products and services sold and is now projected to reach \$630.92 billion in 2033.

For aging rural Americans, AI offers innovative opportunities for remote access to health care. For example, ongoing [physical therapy](#) often requires frequent appointments for follow-up treatment, which are difficult for those in rural communities. The PhysiApp, created by the international company [Physitrack](#), is an app for iPads and iPhones that tracks patient exercise performance, adherence, and outcomes. It also features anatomical imagery with 3D content provided by Primal Pictures. According to the [Physitrack website](#), the app is used by nearly 1 million patients per year in more than 100 countries around the world.

### Weather forecast tools, mapping, and forecasting

It is critical for everyone during these unpredictable weather



**From expanded telehealth options to improved medication reminders and automated deliveries, new and emerging technology can help support healthy aging in rural communities.**

*Editorial Image Provided*

patterns to receive accurate weather information, particularly for those older adults living in rural areas. On the horizon: innovative AI weather forecasting tools.

For example, Google is using AI to develop models for faster and more accurate weather predictions. [Google DeepMind](#) is advanced weather AI forecasting technology that is using models to help with weather forecasting for better decision-making, improved disaster response, grid reliability, and global food security.

These AI forecasting technologies will enhance the weather forecasting systems meteorologists use to help inform communities about weather conditions. In addition, Google is looking into other ways to use AI to help address other [climate adaptation challenges](#).

### Expanding deliveries to rural homes

An innovative plan aims to accelerate the timing for the delivery of packages to arrive more quickly at the doorstep (or driveway) of homes in rural areas. Currently, customers in urban and more populated areas are able to receive one- or two-day shipping from a couple of vendors such as Amazon or Walmart. Yet in more rural areas, fast free shipping benefits are more limited, and in some cases aren't an option.

This spring, Amazon announced that it's taking several steps to expand [delivery to rural homes](#). The company is investing \$4 billion to expand its rural delivery network, with a focus on small towns across the U.S., to bring faster delivery to millions of customers in less densely populated areas. In addition, the use of drones ([Amazon's Prime Air](#)) for the delivery of some packages in less populated areas that are clear of obstacles (like buildings and tall trees), holds promise for some rural areas.

### Autonomous transportation

Research is underway to determine how to bring the benefits of autonomous vehicles to rural and Tribal communities across

*continued on page 8*



# 3 THINGS EVERY OLDER ADULT SHOULD DO FOR THEIR HEALTH THIS FALL

*Courtesy of StatePoint*

For older adults, fall is an important time to focus on health and wellness.

According to Ryan Kocher, who leads Medicare growth for HealthSpring, the new brand for Health Care Service Corporation's Medicare business, formerly owned by the Cigna Group, the following three tasks are essential for seniors to complete as cool weather sets in.

## Get a Flu Shot

An influenza vaccine can help prevent serious illness due to flu. As immune defense diminishes with age, older adults are increasingly susceptible to flu complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of higher dose flu vaccines for people 65 years and older. This fall, in advance of flu season, visit your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get the right vaccine for you. This is also a good time to catch up on any other immunizations that your provider recommends.

## Review Medicare Coverage

Medicare is the government health insurance program for Americans 65 and older and others who qualify. Many Medicare beneficiaries choose or change their plans during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), which takes place between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7. HealthSpring is offering a host of Medicare options for 2026. The company provides these tips for selecting a plan:

- Check for plan changes: Review your plan every AEP, especially if you've experienced changes to your health, lifestyle or finances. It's especially important to read your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter – delivered every September – to find out about any modifications to your current plan.
- Dig into the details: A good plan is one that includes your favorite providers and specialists and covers the medications you currently take. When reviewing plans, take these factors into consideration.
- Consider all your options: Medicare Advantage plans



*Photo (c) JLco - Julia Amaral / iStock via Getty Images Plus*

cover everything Original Medicare does, so do your research to see if these plans will work for you.

- Learn more: Before enrolling in a particular plan, be sure you understand the details. Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit the Medicare Plan Finder website at [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare). For local assistance, refer to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program website at [www.shiptacenter.org](https://www.shiptacenter.org). You can also visit individual Medicare plans' websites for more information. For example, HealthSpring's website is [www.healthspring.com](https://www.healthspring.com).

## Use Your Health Care Benefits

Annual enrollment also serves as a good reminder to take advantage of all your Medicare benefits. Preventive care and a healthy lifestyle can help you maintain your independence and vitality as you age. Tap into what your plan offers so you can actively engage in your health and well-being.

By checking a few important items off your to-do list during autumn, you can ensure you're well-positioned for a healthy winter and 2026.

# TECHNOLOGY

continued from page 6

the country. The U.S. Department of Transportation introduced the [Rural Autonomous Vehicle \(RAV\) Research Program](#) in April. In addition, a team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin is considering how to accelerate the availability of autonomous vehicles (AV) for rural and tribal communities and has initiated the program [TRAVELS](#) (Tribal and Rural Autonomous Vehicles for Efficiency, Livability and Safety).

## A rural tech home checklist

For all older adults, and particularly those living in rural areas, it's beneficial to adopt the following currently available technologies to age well in place. My five suggestions for the "top to adopt:"

1. **Wearables:** A health and/or fitness tracker to monitor physical well-being and send updates to a physician (blood pressure and heart rate monitor). A smartwatch can offer all the elements of a health and fitness tracker, as well as fall detection and an emergency service connection. I actually experienced this benefit firsthand, when I tripped and fell on a road several months ago and my smartwatch detected the fall, started buzzing, and then notified emergency services. I received a call within minutes asking if I required an



The author's smartwatch, showing her current heart rate. Photo Provided

ambulance or any other assistance. Amazing!

2. **Voice assistants:** Having a voice home assistant (such as the Amazon Alexa or [Google Assistant](#)) can provide several services to help with home management, using voice controls to do commands such as turning on and off lights, adjusting the thermostat, making online purchases, and initiating phone calls.

3. **Medication reminders:** There are [innovative devices](#) to assist with the important process of taking medications on a daily basis. These devices work to help store, organize, manage and dispense medications.
4. **Home security:** Systems to offer security for inside and outside of your home offer tech solutions to provide a complete range of options for worry-free living. Some systems also now offer easier installation options as well, such as the Ring Doorbell Plus (it has an option to install without electrical hard wiring).
5. **Give your home a tech education:** Upgrade and make your home a "[smart home](#)," to include some of the innovations in the above recommendations such as home security and thermostats, but add others such as smart locks for your doors, smart kitchen appliances, and automated lawn care.

While aging in rural America may have its additional challenges, technology innovations offer a valuable path to age in place—and age well.

## GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: HARVEST HOSTS

[Harvest Hosts](#) is a membership program that offers RVers unlimited overnight stays with no camping fees at 5,500+ unique locations across North America. From peaceful farms and animal sanctuaries to wineries, breweries, drive-in theaters, and museums, members enjoy memorable experiences while supporting small businesses. Each host offers a unique setting to relax, explore, and connect with local culture. Some locations even allow extra nights or offer electric hookups for a small fee—perfect for when you want to stay just a little longer.

National Grange members can enjoy 20% off their first year of membership with code **GRANGE20** at checkout. [Click here to learn more!](#)







# Have you registered?

## 159<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention

### November 8-16, 2025

*The 159<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention will be here before you know it!*

Sailing from Miami to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, this one-of-a-kind convention blends business with fun, fellowship with learning, and so much more.

Whether you're a longtime Granger or a friend or family member, this unique setting offers unforgettable opportunities to connect, grow, and be inspired. With engaging workshops, meaningful meeting times, and moments of celebration - *not to mention everything Carnival has to offer* - there's something for everyone on board. You'll leave energized with fresh ideas, lasting friendships, and a deeper connection to our mission. Don't miss your chance to be part of Grange history on the high seas!

Updates are being posted regularly on social media and on the main information page. So visit today to be sure you're registered.

Visit: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention> today!

*Reserving your cabin does not register you for the convention. Make sure to do both!*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Some National Grange Events*</u>	
Saturday, November 8	Miami	Saturday, November 8	Wednesday, November 12
Sunday, November 9	At Sea	• Registration of all attendees	• Conferral of the Seventh Degree & Assembly Convocation
Monday, November 10	At Sea	• Sail-Away Party	Friday, November 14
Tuesday, November 11	Aruba	Sunday, November 9	• Election of Officers
Wednesday, November 12	Bonaire	• Opening of Session	Saturday, November 15
Thursday, November 13	Curacao	• President's Addresses	• Opening of Session by Youth Officers
Friday, November 14	At Sea	Tuesday, November 11	• Installation of Officers
Saturday, November 15	At Sea	• Assembly of Demeter Business Meeting	
Sunday, November 16	Miami		

*\*registration required*

# HAMP WATCH: WHERE WAS OUR NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT THIS MONTH?

*This monthly feature highlights where National Grange President Chris Hamp has been and what she's been up to in the month prior. Want to see her in your neighborhood or at your Grange event? Email her at [champ@nationalgrange.org](mailto:champ@nationalgrange.org). This week, we reflect on September.*



September 2: Helped install our Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA) display booth at the Spokane Interstate Fair

September 5: Staffed the Grange area within the Ag Building for a shift at the Spokane Interstate Fair



September 12-14: Attended the 137th annual convention of the Nebraska State Grange in Blair. Their attendance was off the charts with over 80% of their membership in attendance!



September 16: Attended the all-day Regional Fiber Connect 2025 sponsored by the Fiber Broadband Association in Spokane. This event spotlighted the critical role of fiber in shaping the future and driving economic growth.



Whelan-Ewartsville Grange was live. 23h · 🌐

Hosted by National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana with guests National Grange President Christine Hamp and former Washington State Grange Editor Dave Howard, this one-hour event will include time for questions and an invitation to visit the next meeting of the Grange closest to you.

♦ New to streaming or looking to level up? Check out StreamYard and get \$10 discount! ♦



September 17: Participated as a speaker for the Whelan-Ewartsville Grange #114 (WA) Peel Good Speaker Series as part of their Apple Festival where we discussed how the Washington State Grange has impacted the lives of every resident since before statehood.



September 20: Attended the Tyler Grange #610 (WA) Bingo Night and had a ton of fun!



September 27-29: Flying to Tulsa for the site visit of the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in preparation for the 160th annual convention of the National Grange in November 2026.



# 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](mailto:olgaskill@comcast.net). Please include which Grange cookbook your recipes come from.

## Zucchini Bread

Recipe courtesy of Hulda Hall, Cheshire Grange #23, Connecticut  
from *What's Cookin' in the Grange?* (2000)

3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
2 cups grated peeled zucchini

3 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup raisins  
1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, baking powder, salt and cloves in a bowl and mix well. Combine the sugar, butter and brown sugar in a bowl and mix well. Stir in the zucchini, eggs and vanilla. Add the flour mixture and mix well. Fold in the raisins and pecans. Spoon the batter into 2 greased and floured loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until the loaves test done. Cool pans for 10 minutes. Remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

Yield: 2 loaves

## Rhubarb Surprise Float

Recipe courtesy of Joann Goodlaxson, Rising  
Sun Grange #718, Wisconsin  
from *What's Cookin' in the Grange?* (2000)

1 cup flour  
1 Tablespoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1/4 cup milk  
3 cups chopped rhubarb  
3/4 cups sugar  
1/2 cup boiling water  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Yield: 6-8 Servings

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Beat the butter in a mixer bowl until creamy. Add 1/2 cup sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg until blended. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the milk, mixing well after each addition. Spoon into a buttered 8x9-inch baking dish. Combine the rhubarb, 3/4 cup sugar, boiling water and nutmeg in a bowl and mix well. Spoon over the prepared layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes or until brown. Serve warm or chilled. Top with whipped cream if desired. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

**Submit your  
stories, events,  
and ideas to...**

**GRANGE**  *Today!*  
<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

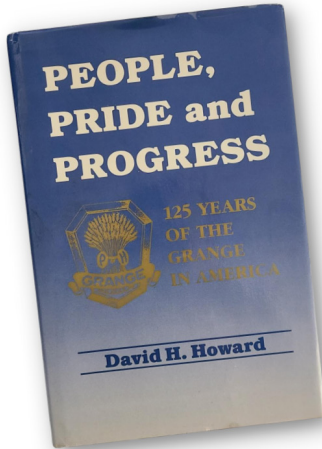


# GRANGE STORE: PREPARE FOR STATE CONVENTIONS



## SUPPLY STORE

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



### PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PROGRESS

125 Years of Grange in America  
by David H. Howard

335 Pages, pub. 1992  
Looking for a fun and educational  
door prize for your State Convention?

**\$6.00**  
plus shipping

Get your copy by ordering online  
through the Grange Supply Store at  
[grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at  
(202) 628-3507 x109.



## SUPPLY STORE

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



**#GRANGESTRONG**

### GRANGE STRONG SOCKS

*Quantity Running Low!*

Show and wear your Grange Pride at  
various events and activities, especially  
at State and National Conventions!

Featuring the **#GrangeStrong**  
logo on a light gray sock.

80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.  
**One size fits most**

**\$16.00** plus shipping

will be available at National Grange  
Convention

Order online through the Grange Supply  
Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org)  
or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

MAKE TODAY A  *Good Day!*™

SUBSCRIBE:  
[NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY](http://NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY)

## NATIONAL GRANGE

HEADQUARTERS: 1616 H ST. NW, SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

**Publisher** - Christine Hamp, National Grange President. Available to members at [champ@nationalgrange.org](mailto:champ@nationalgrange.org) or by phone at (509) 953-3533

**Editor** - Philip J Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. Contact to submit a story idea for *Grange Today!* or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, social media, and more. Email [pvonada@nationalgrange.org](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (814) 404-7985

**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](mailto: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](mailto:beller@nationalgrange.org)

**Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits** -  
Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email [Lwashington@nationalgrange.org](mailto:Lwashington@nationalgrange.org)

**Free Grange Websites, Emails, *Good Day!* subscription questions, and Membership Database** -  
Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director. *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email [swilkins@nationalgrange.org](mailto:swilkins@nationalgrange.org)

**Lecturer** - Tom Gwin, [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org) or (360) 581-0177

**Junior Grange Programming** - [junior@nationalgrange.org](mailto:junior@nationalgrange.org)

**Grange Youth & Young Adult Programming** - [youth@nationalgrange.org](mailto:youth@nationalgrange.org) | [nationalgrangeyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:nationalgrangeyouth2@gmail.com)

**Grange Youth Fair Program** - [grangeyouthfairs@grange.org](mailto:grangeyouthfairs@grange.org)

**National Grange Community Service** - [communityservice@grange.org](mailto:communityservice@grange.org)

**Distinguished Grange** - Connie Johnston, Administrator [distinguishedgrange@grange.org](mailto:distinguishedgrange@grange.org)

**Grange Foundation** - John Benedik, Chairperson [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org)

