



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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Potential of AI and Machine Learning in Agriculture

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

As the world's population continues to grow, so does the need for sustainable and efficient agriculture practices. In recent years, advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning have shown potential to revolutionize the way we approach agriculture, making it more precise, productive, and sustainable.

AI and machine learning can be applied in a variety of ways across the agriculture industry. For example, sensors and drones equipped with machine learning algorithms can be used to collect and analyze data on soil moisture, nutrient levels, and crop growth patterns, allowing farmers to optimize their planting and irrigation schedules. This can help farmers conserve resources, reduce waste, and increase yields.

In addition, machine learning algorithms can be used to detect and diagnose plant diseases, pests, and other issues that can impact crop health. By analyzing data on plant physiology and environmental conditions, these algorithms can help farmers identify problems early and take appropriate action to prevent or mitigate damage.

AI and machine learning can also be used in livestock management, where sensors and tracking devices can collect data on animal health, behavior, and performance. This information can be used to optimize feed and water delivery, identify potential health issues, and improve breeding practices.

Despite the potential benefits of AI and machine learning in agriculture, there are also challenges and concerns that must be addressed. For example, there are questions around data privacy and ownership, as well as the potential for job displacement as automation technologies become more widespread. It will be important for stakeholders across the industry to work together to address these challenges and ensure that the benefits of AI and machine learning are accessible to all.

In conclusion, the potential of AI and machine learning to transform agriculture is significant. By leveraging these technologies, farmers and other agriculture professionals can make data-driven decisions that help them conserve resources, increase yields, and improve sustainability. As these technologies continue to evolve, we can look forward to a future of smarter, more efficient agriculture.

This article was written by a computer! You may have recently seen articles about ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence (AI) machine learning. With just a brief prompt, the ChatGPT itself wrote this article, pulling information from all sources on the internet to put together an article that is informational and makes sense. Is this our future?

“Just Ask Me” – the generational need

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), Junior Grange & Youth Development Director



In today's society, our youth are so consumed with jam-packed schedules and responsibilities that we often put other things on the back burner, and too often that back burner contains the Grange.

But why is it that Grange is on that back burner and how do we get the youth and young adults to prioritize Grange in their world? The answer could be as simple as – **Just Ask Me**.

It is all about finding a balance between being persistent while not being too pushy. We (the youth) want to be included - we want to be a part of something and feel like we belong. However, too often we feel as though we are unheard, thought of as being 'just kids,' or not necessarily needed. But now is the time for us to change that conversation and invite the next generation through our doors.

As Junior Grange and Youth Development Director, I hear Grangers over and over again ask about how they can get young members through the door; what we need is for you to “ask me,” where “me” is the Youth you want to get involved!

Sending me a reminder email about the meeting is not going to work. We need you to pick up the phone - call me (or text) - invite me - even send me a reminder text. I may not come the first time, so be persistent. But more important than getting me through the door, *make me feel welcome once I get there*.

Grangers tend to be really welcoming to someone new coming in the door, but sometimes we struggle with keeping that ‘we are glad you’re here’ attitude after the initial welcome. When they get there, the obvious “hello, glad you’re here” works, but throughout the time I am at your meeting, invite me to really be a part of things you’re doing. If I am brand new, sit by me and explain things as they’re happening. After the meeting, invite me back - have me put it on my calendar, and then before the next meeting - call me and **Ask Me** again.

This world may keep us really busy, but we are only going to prioritize the things that are truly important to us. If you make me feel important and wanted, I am going to prioritize coming and being part of what you have going on at your Grange Hall.

So, Grangers, this is your time - *this is your challenge*. We are just over a month away from Grange Month so we challenge you during the next few weeks: reach out to some youth in your community and begin the conversation that will help them prioritize their schedules to join you at your Grange meeting in April for Grange month.

Youth Yammerings

WHEN:

Third Sunday of even-numbered months (February/April/June... etc.)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

WHO:

Youth Directors or anyone else interested in
National Grange Youth & Young Adult programming!

WHERE:



On Zoom!

Login: 697 859 421

Passcode: 568970

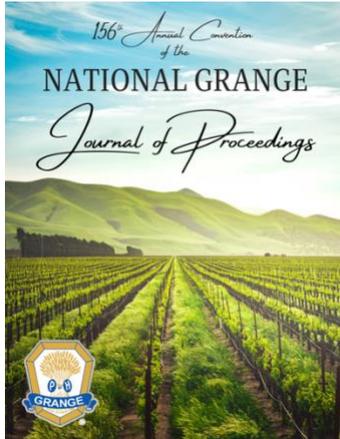
bit.ly/YouthYammerings

On February 19, join National Junior Grange and Youth Development Director Samantha Wilkins for **Youth Yammerings** at 9pm Eastern!

This month's event is open to any Youth member or Youth Director, or anyone interested in Youth & Young Adult programming at the National Grange level. Learn about this year's contests, monthly focus (Pillar) areas, and more!

[Click Here to Join!](#)

2022 Journal of Proceedings



The Journal of Proceedings from the 2022 National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada is now available. The Journal includes all information from the convention, including minutes, Departmental reports, and the annual audit, as well as the resolutions presented and approved at the convention. In addition, the current policy handbook is included in the JOP, with standing Grange policies and advocacy efforts.

[Download the Journal here.](#)

Grange Month Materials



Grange Month is just around the corner – April will be here before we know it!

Over the next few weeks, keep checking the [Grange Month 2023](#) page on the National Grange website as more things will be added!

Stay tuned for information on

Grange Spirit Week which will be celebrated April 16-22.

We are in year two of our “Raised Right Here,” theme. This year, we encourage our Granges to use the theme to celebrate building strong communities – of all sorts! The network of the Grange community is strong, and we work to make the communities where our Granges function strong, too!

During Grange Month, there will be online forums and events with many of the National Grange officers and Directors – please encourage your Grange members to attend! That calendar will be available in mid-March.



RAISED RIGHT HERE
SINCE 1867

must purchase by March 13!
delivery by April 1

Polo - \$33* (Royal)
Hoodie - \$40* (Navy)
Junior T-Shirt - \$18* (Red)
T-Shirt - \$20* (Green)
Women's V-Neck - \$20* (Light Blue)

*plus applicable taxes and shipping

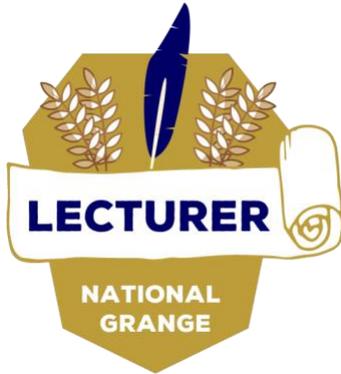
GRANGE MONTH SALE!

Raised Right Here Shirts
the final time the *Raised Right Here* logos
will be for sale on apparel!



bit.ly/grangemonthshirt

Latest issue of A Quarter's Worth



Each quarter, the National Grange Lecturer releases a newsletter about ideas, programs, contests, and more items of interest for Grange Lecturers/Program Directors around the country.

[The 2023 Quarter 1 issue is now available!](#)

[Sign up](#) so you can receive these direct to your inbox each quarter when they're available!

Heirloom Program: Year B



Year B of the Grange Heirloom Program launches in March!

The Heirloom Program aims to make Grange ritual and essential documents more accessible to new (and lifelong) members by fostering conversations around the tenets of our Order.

If you haven't participated in Year A, that's okay! There's no "wrong time" to jump into the Heirloom Program. We encourage use of these materials on social media, to facilitate discussions in your Grange meetings during "Conferral of the Degrees" or "Good of the Order," or as jumping-off points for programs in your Grange.

These are not meant to be a replacement for Lecturer's programs, but rather a supplemental resource to help introduce or reinforce the beliefs that make our Order special.

Access the Year B materials here:

[Year B Brochure](#)

[Year B Social Media and Posters](#)

[Year B "Social Sharing" Calendar](#) (includes dates and suggested text to include with social media posts)

[Watch this video on the Heirloom Program and its uses!](#)

Upcoming Events!



JOIN US FOR A LECTURER'S FORUM!

What: A chance to share Grange programming & contests

When: February 28 at 8:30pm Eastern

Where: **On Zoom:** Meeting ID: 825 5731 0725 Code: 962144

Who: Anyone interested in Grange programming - not just lecturers



Grange Foundation
1-in-1000 Club
Annual Meeting

March 1 at 8:30pm Eastern

Join on Zoom:
ID: 829 3705 4586
Passcode: 299447
or bit.ly/FoundationZoom

When You Don't Know The Neighbors

By Donna Kallner, courtesy of [The Daily Yonder](#)

Watching out for others is in the DNA of rural people. But how do we get to be good neighbors to those whose paths never cross our own?

Like many rural people, I've met new neighbors several times by helping (or trying to) herd cows or horses that got out of unfamiliar pastures. That's a surefire way to make an acquaintance. But for those without misbehaving domestic animals or school-age kids, introductions can be more of a challenge.

Once upon a time when folks had landlines if you knew someone's last name, you could look them up in the phone book to call when their dog was in your yard or a package was delivered to your porch by mistake. With cell phones, it's harder to reach out to someone you don't already know. Nobody wants to come across as a busybody by asking a stranger for their cell number or give off an unintended creepy stalker vibe by showing up at their door unannounced. Knocking that wakes up a sleeping baby or third-shift worker isn't the first impression you want to make. How do you even know when is a good time to introduce yourself to neighbors who work out of town or have a long commute, or to non-resident property owners?

There are no perfect answers, but here are some suggestions on how to reach out to your country neighbors.

Smile and wave. Whether you're in your yard, on your deck, walking to the mailbox, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, in your vehicle, or on your bicycle – smile and wave at *everyone*. A cheerful greeting is never wasted, even on people just passing through. And your actual neighbors will start to connect a friendly face with a place and/or mode of transportation. Once you can recognize each other, it's easier for one of you to pull up and introduce yourself. Keep it brief and casual: *I'm so-and-so and I live at the place with the _____ . I can see you're busy but I wanted to say hello and introduce myself.*

Offer your number. Anyone used to living where people draw curtains for privacy might need a little space to acclimate to a rural neighborhood. So unless you want them to start running background checks on you, don't lead off with offers to watch their kids or pick up their mail. However, you *can* offer your cell phone number and a "feel free to call or text if you have

any questions". They may offer theirs back, or to text you so you're both in each other's contacts. Or they may not, in which case don't ask for it unless and until you know each other well enough to have a legitimate (to them) need for it. Give them the benefit of the doubt about why they may not seem ready to be all-in as neighbors – yet – and let them set the pace for building this new relationship.

Need-to-know. There's a fine line, sometimes, between helpful information and thinly veiled criticism or the kind of gossip that makes a neighbor wonder what you're telling others about *them*. So think twice about what you share, how you share, and what it says about you. Bite your tongue before offering the neighbor with the shaggy lawn names of a half dozen people who mow. But if you're planning a big party, stop by to invite the neighbors to join you *and* to assure them the music will end at 10 pm. For sure let your neighbors know how to contact you if your short-term vacation rental tenants suddenly seem to be hosting a rock festival and encampment at your place. And if you've given someone permission to hunt on your land, let the neighbors know there may be a strange vehicle parked at a strange place at odd hours.

Join a neighborhood group. Whether you have questions to ask or advice to offer, meetings in real life and online groups or message boards are surprisingly good ways to connect with your community. Review and adhere to the rules of engagement for online groups, and the [Golden Rule](#) in all situations. Give yourself a little time to settle into a group before posing questions that might ruffle feathers, like "*Who owns that annoying rooster we hear before dawn?*" But you can't beat the hive mind for coming up with the name of someone who sells local honey or a cell phone number for the non-resident cottage owner who just had a tree fall on their roof.

When neighbors aren't people... Non-resident owners aren't all cottage people. Farmland changes hands, and some landowners contract out field work to people who may not live nearby. Tracking down a phone number for forest cropland, family trusts, limited liability corporations, and other ownership entities isn't easy. One way to do that is by using an app that integrates public records and maps. For example, [OnX Hunt](#) is a GPS mapping app that shows property boundaries. You can tap on a parcel to view the owner's name and address from tax records. Snail mail isn't the fastest way for a neighbor to report a concern to a non-resident owner, but at least it's something.

When that's not enough... Recently a friend noticed the lights on a cell tower she could see from her house had stopped blinking at night. She was concerned about medical helicopters that sometimes fly a route through that area. The sheriff's department didn't know who to contact. She considered calling the people who own the land where the tower is located. But that seemed several layers removed from who actually operates and maintains the structure. So she ran an online [antenna search](#) to identify towers (count of 5) and antennas (count of 24) within a 3-mile radius of her address. After narrowing down possible users, she used the online database to find contact info for the cell phone provider that uses the tower.

It took a few calls and a couple of weeks but those red lights are back on, and she said those folks were grateful a neighbor let them know about the outage. The database she used also includes the FCC's [Antenna Structure Registration \(ASR\)](#) numbers. Structures taller than 200 feet above ground level can pose a hazard to air navigation. Having the ASR number makes it [simple to find](#) more information about a specific tower's ownership and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) painting and lighting specifications that apply to it. Our neighbor's next strategy, if contacting the cell company didn't get results, was to contact the FAA.

If all else fails, hold a yard sale. Nothing draws curious neighbors like putting artifacts from your life up for sale on tables on your lawn. And what better way could there be to get to know folks than to hold up a find and say, "There must be a story that goes with this"? In some rural neighborhoods, showing up with baked goods to introduce yourself is still *exactly* the right thing. Or you can learn all you need to know with a few questions at church or the local gas station. But if it takes a little more effort to get acquainted with your neighbors, it's worth it. And after the horses are back in the fence you'll have a great story to tell about how you met.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

"RAISED RIGHT HERE" VINYL STICKERS



Great way to celebrate Grange month and to have at other Grange activities and events.

Die-Cut Vinyl Stickers - in two designs, celebrating the National Grange "Raised Right Here" theme
25 stickers of each design

\$12 for 50 stickers
plus shipping

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

Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo Presidents' Day Deals

Presidents Day Sale
Save up to 75% off
[Shop Now](#)
Lenovo

Save up to 75% off tech and more

Lenovo's Presidents Day sale brings monumental savings of up to 75% off PLUS 2x MyLenovo Rewards, now through Feb. 26th, 2023.

Not a MyLenovo Rewards Member? Sign up and earn rewards for future purchases. Plus, you'll receive expedited delivery at no extra cost!

Looking to upgrade? Start with Think.

Get great deals on ThinkPads, ThinkBooks, & ThinkCentre PCs.

Shop Now: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

For assistance with purchases, call: 1-800-426-7235 (M-F: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET, Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET)

Be sure to check the website often – special offers change frequently.



GRANGE JEWELRY



Grange Jewelry is now in stock at the Grange Store. Pins include years of service and member recognition pins from 5-80 years, past officer pins, degree recognition pins, and much more!

Some jewelry is now on clearance!

Prices vary

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

www.grangestore.com

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