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Master's Message...

Great Plains Conference Up Next

It has been a very busy Spring! The National Master Ed Luttrell visited our state in March he presented a slide show about what was happening on the National Grange Level and on our state level. There was a chicken noodle dinner for the members who attended. There were around 40 members in attendance, including the Junior members. The National Master presented prizes for the ones who asked or answered questions. It was a very informative evening. Thank you goes out to the

ones who attended.

In April the Clear Creek Grange hosted the Degree Day at Welch, OK. There were six marching candidates and several more that did not march. The Junior Director had activities for the Junior members and the Youth Director had a scavenger hunt for the youth to participate in before they came to Degree Day. The Grange Activities Director had a baking contest and craft contest for the men, women, youth and the juniors. There were 50 members who attended the Degree Day. The food was great, thanks to Clear Creek Grange. We had lots of door prizes. At the Degree Day I presented Richard and Marie Volz a statue of the Granger for hosting the National Master at their home in March. There was no snow this year but we did have lots and lots of rain during Degree Day.

I am looking forward to attending the Great Plains Conference in Kansas. It will be an exciting time. This is the second year that there will be four National Directors there to put on workshops. We have around 30 members going to the conference. There will be four

Youth from our state who will be giving speeches in the speech contest on Saturday evening. Good Luck with your speeches.

Also don't forget about the deadline for the Grange Scholarship Application "June 30, 2012." The application was in the last newsletter or you can go on line to okgrange.org to download a copy. The application will need to be sent to me at, Rt. 1 Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK. 74072.

It is not too early to think about the State Convention in October. It will be in Broken Arrow, OK. October 19-21, 2012; at the Clarion Inn. Start working on your resolutions and your contests for the different departments.

I would like to see two representatives from each Grange attend this years State Grange Convention. You will get mileage for one car per Grange and you will have one room per Grange paid for at the State Convention. There will be a registration fee of \$10.00 per member and \$5.00 per Junior member. The meals are free, Friday Evening Banquet and Saturday Luncheon. The hotel pro

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Dates To Remember

June 15-17 2012, Father's Day Weekend for the Great Plains Leaders Conference hosted by Kansas Grange at the Holiday Inn in Lawrence, KS.

June 30, 2012 is the deadline for the scholarship application.

Sept. 1, 2012 - News items for next Sooner Granger are due. Send to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631 or Fax 580 363-4296, or email to robert@tradersbend.com.

Membership

Carl Shufeldt and Jerry Taylor, Directors

Hello Fellow Grangers

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring and your gardens are doing well. We have good news for membership thus far this year. It looks as though we will have another large gain this year. We challenged each Grange last quarter to obtain a fifteen percent gain in membership for this year. I am pleased to say we have ten Granges that have an increase in membership, and seven of those have already obtained their

Secretary's Note

By Jeannie Harrington

Hope everyone is getting a great start into summer. I can hardly believe it is June already. Where has the first half of this year gone?

It is almost time for the Great Plains Conference June - 15th -17th. Lots of things planned for that weekend. We have quite a few people going to represent Oklahoma.

Just a reminder that it is time for Second Quarter Reports and Dues.

This report is very important for us to get a membership count for our report to National Grange. Remember to send in your assessments for every person with your second quarter report. Also remember to put all those who have passed away on your reports.

Now is the time to begin working on your resolutions for State Session in October. It will be here before we know it!

Fraternally,
Jeannie Harrington
State Secretary

fifteen percent increase.

The largest increase in percent of membership gain belongs to Cabin Creek with an eighty eight percent gain and 23 total members gained. The largest member gain thus far is Union Grange with 50 members gained for a twenty eight percent increase. We have a gain of 105 members over last year through the first quarter of this year. We need 151 more members for this quarter to reach a 15 percent increase for the year. I have heard of some pretty large increases this quarter, so we can still achieve it.

I am sorry to report we have a closing of the Washington Grange, but we have a new Grange organizing in Cleora. We wish Dakota and Charbrice Evans the best in that endeavor.

Yours Fraternally
Carl Shufeldt
Jerry Taylor
Membership Directors

Master's Message

Continued

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vides a free breakfast for the ones who are staying at the hotel. So the cost is low to come to the State Convention. Hope to see you there.

One of the most ask questions that I have heard lately is how do you start a Grange and how many members does it take to keep a community Grange active. The answers are it takes 13 members to start a grange you need 4 men and 4 women and then 5 other members and you need to keep that membership to 13 members or more. If you don't have at least 13 members your Grange may be suspended or your Grange closed. You need to have monthly meetings and you need to send in a report to the State Secretary on what your community Grange has done each year; plus keep your dues paid on time..

Fraternally Submitted,
Donna Keeton
State Master

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**Marvin Purdy, President
Robert Bailey, Vice Pres.
Dee Procter, Secretary
Donna Keeton,
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Grange Activities / Community Service

By Mary Krehbiel

Hello Grangers and welcome to summer in Oklahoma,

We have already had close calls with tornados, hail, heat, cold and thunder storms. But that is Oklahoma! We had a good turnout for Degree Day in April and I want to thank everyone who participated in the contests and congratulate the winners. Women made cupcakes and the winners were 1st Aliene Taylor, 2nd Dolores Walker, and 3rd Valarie Thomsen. Men made a relish tray and the winners were 1st

Jerry Taylor, 2nd Clayton Krehbiel and 3rd Brad Keeton. Youth made chocolate chip cookies and Melody and Bailey Shufeldt won with a combined effort 1st and 2nd place. The craft contest was a wooden toy or game and Richard Volz won 1st place. We also had an adult and youth guess the candy jar game with winners taking home the jars of candy.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and your talent at the State Session in October at Broken Arrow. I

hope everyone will enter the following contests.

Women: Decorated wreath for wall or door. Men: Decorated or improved mailbox. Photos of before and after for your entry...don't bring mailboxes... unless you want to! Youth: Re-purpose something into a recycling tool or bin. (bring it if it isn't too big or take a photo of it.) Jr.'s: Make a picture (with a sturdy backing) from glued on seeds or beans. I would like entries from anyone for cross stitch or hand embroidery. (any item) Using the same age groups as above. Every entry should have your full name, age and Grange on the back. Judging usually begins by 10:30 am on the first day of the Session so be sure to have your entries in before you go into the Session or by 10:00 am.

I have included a new Community Service Form for 2012 but if you have already started your book using the old one, continue with it. The new one is very nearly the same, other than date and my address. The Community Service Books are due to me by September 1, 2012. Please send one, no matter how much or little work you think you have done on them. I would like Oklahoma to meet the requirements to send in a book to National.

Once again I want to encourage everyone to enjoy the fun by entering our contests for this year and show everyone Grangers Have Talent!!

Fraternally Yours,
Mary Krehbiel
Grange Activities and
Community Service Director

Lecturer's Lesson

By Yvonne Meritt

Greetings,

Well the wheat harvest is well underway this year. I am hoping all the wheat is cut before the storms destroy the crop. This past week we had a very bad storm near my home. As Kay and I sat in a hotel in Kansas City, I must say it really surprised us just how many people were checking on us. I am hoping for no damage when we get home.

Summer is the time to start thinking of contests for the State Session. The National Grange is having two contests this year, one is a photo contest and the other is a quilt block contest. The photo will selected from the first place winners from the state contest and will be the best of show. As for the quilt block there are very specific rules so as those become available I will pass them on if you give me a call.

Photo contest:

Categories: Special Occasions, Close up, Scenes, and Animals.

Only one entry per person per category. Ages: Junior Grange 5-13, Youth 14-21, Adult over 21.

Write a story:

Tell your favorite Grange memory. Must be limited to 500 words, typed, double spaced, single-sided print, and must have a cover page which includes contestant's name.

Only one entry per person per category. Ages: Junior Grange 5-13, Youth 14-21, Adult over 21.

Fraternally,
Yvonne Meritt
405 262-3354

Junior Grange

Scheneista Procter, Director

Hello Junior Grangers,

We had a fun time planting and making kites, sun visors, and pin-wheels at Degree Day in Welch. If you didn't make it you missed out on

Youth Report

Billy and Lena Shufeldt, Directors

Hello everyone,

What a beginning to the summer, right now it is cool out and were enjoying it very much. Cause we know it won't last long. I hope everyone plans to have a great summer ahead, and hope everyone has survived all the storms, we have had so far this year. Could use a bit more rain.

We had a pretty good turn out for Degree Day. As far as my youth, I would have liked to have seen more there, but I understand everyone has other things to do as well.

Now we have the Great Plains Youth Conference that is being held in Lawrence Ks, June the 15th. Also, if you're planning on going and doing a speech or sign a song please remember to bring your prepared speeches with you. I would have liked to have seen more signing up to go but, I also understand we have jobs and some have summer sports going on too.

The next date for everyone to remember is the State Convention in Oct. I hope to see all my Youth there.

Billy and Lena Shufeldt
Oklahoma Youth Directors

planting your seeds. We are growing our seeds for a contest that will continue to September 1st and then I need you to turn in your pictures or drawings and your measurements of the plants you planted at Degree Day. I will announce the winner of the contest at State Session in October, so keep on growing those seeds.

This month is the Youth and Junior conference for our region and it will be held in Kansas this year. I hope that you will all be attending the conference.

They do have a few contests going on during this conference. One of them is the regional public speaking contest where you will deliver a prepared 1 minute speech on any topic of your choice. Also, they have two categories for the sign a song and one is to manually sign the alphabet; the other is to sign a song. The age's groups for the sign a song contests are 8-14. I gave this information out at Degree Day for these contests. I hope some of you Junior Grangers will participate and make our State proud.

The National Grange has a few contests going on, but I have to have

National Grange Quilt Block Contest

At right are the two quilt blocks approved for entry into the National Grange Quilt Block Contest.

Remember, the size of the block is 10" by 10" finished with a 1/4" strip on each side for piecing them together and unbacked.

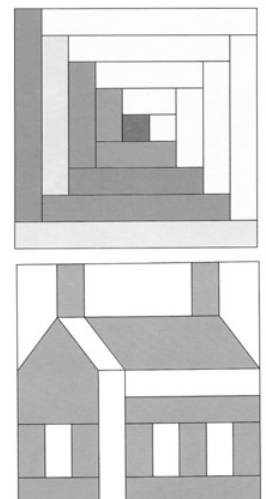
You can find larger, color images, and more details on the Oklahoma Grange website at www.okgrange.org.

everything turned into me no later than September 1st so I can get it turned in to Nationals. Here is a list of the National Junior Contests:

Creative art contest which is where you draw a picture of your plant that we planted at Degree Day. The other contests are the creative writing which is where you write about how you planted a seed in your Junior Grange. I gave all of this information out at Degree Day if you need more information please let me know and I will be glad to get it to you.

Well, State Session will be right around the corner before we realize it and I will need you to turn in your Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm Read-A-Thon paperwork and the money at State Session. We will also be doing lots of fun activities and you won't want to miss out on all of them, so please try to attend. I will be sending out more information in the next paper.

Submitted by,
Scheneista Procter
State Junior Director



Legislative Report

by Yvonne Meritt, Legislative Director

From the National Grange website:

As Senate prepares to debate Farm Bill, take time to thank a farmer

By National Grange President
Edward L. Luttrell
May 29, 2012

As the Senate prepares to debate the 2012 Farm Bill, a significant piece of legislation, we see scrutiny of the agriculture industry and the recent “record profits” by the media, economists, and laypersons often having little knowledge of either agriculture or the bill itself.

While Washington struggles to save pennies, farmers are doing their fair share with the Senate’s proposed Farm Bill; shaving the requested \$23 billion from farm programs. Considering that commodity policies comprise less than one-quarter of one percent of the federal budget – about 25 cents of every \$100 paid in taxes – this is a huge cut to the nation’s most vibrant industry.

The population has more than doubled since 1960 and yet American agriculturalists feed the 311 million people living in the United States, as well as millions of people consuming the \$132 billion worth of food exported from the U.S. in 2011. Americans are paying just over 9 percent of their income on food, less than any other country on Earth. United States agricultural products are also considered the safest, most affordable, and most reliable in the world. In fact, since 1959, food has been one of the few areas of the economy for which the



United States could report a positive balance of trade.

With each Farm Bill, farmers are expected to do more with less. Agricultural policy funding was already slashed by \$7.4 billion in 2008, and again by \$6 billion in 2010. It is also worth noting that only 11 percent of funding for the Farm Bill goes to farm policies. The rest is allotted for food and nutrition programs like SNAP benefits, most widely known as food stamps. American agriculture also employs 14 percent of the U.S. workforce, or about 21 million people. This is more than six times as many workers as the automotive industry – which received an \$80 billion bailout in 2008. Add it up, that’s more than 10 times the premium paid by taxpayers for agriculture last year through taxpayer-subsidized, government crop insurance.

Farmers, more than those in almost any other profession, face unanticipated risk. Tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, droughts, blizzards, and other unforeseen misfortunes are just a few. American agriculture lost an estimated \$10 billion in revenue last year due to floods in the

Midwest, droughts in the southern states, and hurricanes along the coast. Regardless of all Mother Nature throws at the farmers – not to mention commodity price fluctuation and global currency market disparities – Americans still expect to go to the grocery store and find food.

In addition, farmers themselves are certainly not going to get rich under the current Farm Bill proposals. In 2010, the average income of American farming households was \$54,162; well in line with the overall average income of about \$50,000. However, of every dollar spent on food in the United States, farmers receive less than 20 cents. In some instances they receive even less. The majority of the costs associated with these and other foods come from processing and marketing – not the agricultural component.

As rhetoric related to farming ramps up and pundits often mislay facts, it’s important to understand that farmers are not reaping profits at the expense of taxpayers. I hope you keep these facts in mind as you read and listen to the debate related to the 2012 Farm Bill. The unique hardships and challenges faced by farmers and ranchers are rarely discussed, yet the contributions they make to society and the global economy as whole are unmatched by any other industry. Just as we thank the veterans who fight for our country in foreign lands, we should thank the farmers who grow the food that sustain us, our children, and people all over the world.

Community Service Project Information Form For 2012

Submitted by: _____

What kind of activity was completed? (project name & dates) _____

Who was involved? (# of Grange members and others) _____

Describe what the activity included. (how many hours were involved?) _____

Use extra sheets, if necessary.

Why did your Grange decide to do this project? _____

Please put information in a book with pictures and forms. Copy as many as you need.

Submit by September 1, 2012 to: Mary Krehbiel

28243 CR 1060, Deer Creek, OK 74636

Phone: 580 267-3226 Cell: 580 541-7353