

Worthy Master, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, or whom ever wishes to hear this, Another year has come and gone. It seemed to blow thru on a jet stream and I wish I could be here to be giving this report myself. Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ for reading this for me.

After last session, I was able to get my program out with the rest of the committees. I hope everyone got to see them and took advantage of the information I was able to put in them. I do understand that some Granges did not get them, I cannot see a way to remedy this as not only were they available last year hard copy but also could have been downloaded off the State Grange website and either kept digitally or printed and had as a hard copy. Hopefully this years' will be just as available.

After State session came Deputy School, the Ag committee met and spoke about possibly seeing about doing a north country, south country Maple distribution Co-op, as we understand that Grangers in the North make so much less money for their maple than us Grangers in the South do, when we make maple syrup. Sadly I have not had the time to iron out the details of this program to have it at full stream right now. I can see it working best if we can find people here in the southern part of the state that may be interested in supplementing their maple sales to come up with amounts maple they are interested in and during some of the State events it can be brought down and distributed in batches, making shipping of product reasonable and easy, if anyone is interested in working with this please contact me and I'll try to work harder on this.

In February, Membership and Ag teamed up and did Farm and Forrest expo again. This year we had piglets, chicks and lots of people talking to Grange members about the farm animals, thank you for everyone that helped.

I tried sending out programs thru the Grangevine so that interested Grange members could attend. After not seeing much interest in it, I gave up, as my time was set more and more into all the animals and getting ready for my Niece's to start showing.

In July I took some time out of the Stratham fair and went to a pig workshop that was held here in NH. It was a great little program and seeing that it had been over a decade since the last pork program like this in NH I was surprised how few had attended but those that had attended were extremely interested and enthused. I wish I could have gone back for the full day to do the nutrition part but I got stuck doing the Pigs at the Fair, feel free to read your Granite State Granger to learn more about that.

This year, in total, I found myself going to 7 fairs (I only was planning on going to 3), but last minute for 4 of them I was asked to transport my niece's animals to the fairs with her. Deerfield fair taking the most time as it consisted of 1 cow, 29 pigs, 5 geese, 2 turkeys, 4 chickens, and about 15 ducks. Starting at 7AM and ending at 11PM 5 trips later I got to go to bed. Having been to so many fairs this year and reading the Market Bulletin (put out by the State) made me wonder would it be worth doing a Grange Premium for 1 Exhibitor at each fair chosen by a Grange Member, using the criteria of knowledge of agriculture, care of their animal at the fair(if they have one), knowledge of other organizations that are Agriculture oriented (no they do not need to know about Grange to receive it, but if they get it my bet is they will look into what Grange is).

This year I had asked for applications for Ag Awards in July to hopefully get an outing at a farm and Awards day at said farm. Last minute in August I received an award application from a Grange member, not authorized by their Grange, which made me wonder do Granges really want to have farms recognized any more? I will most likely be giving the 2019 Centennial award to Bartlet Dairy Farm in Concord as it is the only application that was filled out and received for Centennial farm. But I still wonder, Am I to be inspecting these Farms if they are suggested by an individual Granger over the Grange or just pass the buck if something goes wrong after giving the award? I personally thought that a good portion of these awards was a way for the Granges to be more involved in their community, if it is coming just from the State Grange will it help the subordinate Granges at all?

Hopefully this session the Legislative Director will be going over some of the bills that are currently in the House and Senate that not only will effect farmers but will also effect animal ownership

in general. As it is, with the budget, some how a law change was added that will make many more people have to choose between becoming animal hoarders, break the law, or shell out money to become legal and have to have their private residence inspected by the State or SPCA without appointment. Along with requiring more stringent care rules, such as one species per building (defined as 6 sided unit), Stainless steel dishes (two sets as one will be sanitized while the other is being used), and much more. As there was not a defined section of what pet animals are, they are going to be decided by the Agriculture department, As the NH State Agriculture Commissioner had so gratefully said in one of the bulletins, this law is retroactive, that means if you have breed these animals (that have not been put on the list yet) in the quantity that would require you to register as a pet vendor, and sold them since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, you better do it ASAP for if they become listed you will have been in violation and subject to the law and all penalties of breaking it.

Well, This seems to be getting long, and we were warned about being over wordy, so I'm going to leave it with; Think where civilization would be without Agriculture. Could we have cities if they rely on hunting and gathering? Without the Farmer could there be enough food for the work force that keeps us all occupied during our free time? Could we enjoy nights out with friends at meetings? Could we relax for a weekend voting on resolutions, giving out awards, and having a fun time with Great people?

Have a great time,  
Norman Brandt  
NH State Grange Agriculture Director.