



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVI NO. 4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUG, 2020

2020 GRANGE CONVENTION CHANGES

Michigan State Grange Convention

The 2020 Michigan State Grange Convention will be held October 24, 2020 (one day only) at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center at 2650 South I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI The number for the hotel to make your reservations is: 989-348-7611. Their FAX number in case you should need it is: 989-348-7984.

There are changes to the length of and who is to attend the convention this year. Please read the Masters column for additional information. Also contests are limited, so please read each directors article to see what contests if any they are holding this year.

2020 NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

The National Grange Executive Committee is very sorry to announce that the 2020 National Grange Convention will have many changes because of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore will be open for National delegates and officers only. No visitors or Grangers will be invited to attend in person this year.

The convention will be cut to two days and the only business will be voting on resolutions and electing two executive committee officers. Extra activities, such as the Evening of Excellence, Youth and Junior Public Speaking and Sign a Song, will take place virtually. The Seventh Degree will not be exemplified this year.

Other recognitions such as Community Service awards, Distinguished Grange, Grange Legacy Family, and the Quilt Block Contest, will be held and awards given, but there will be no ceremony. National Grange Department Directors will be sending out information regarding their programs and how they will be handled this year, so stay tuned!

The Valley Forge Casino Resort, site of the convention, has been closed since March 14 to this date (June 6). We don't know when it will be permitted to open, because the counties around Philadelphia are a hot spot for the virus. The hotel is willing to allow us to downsize our convention to two days, 80 people, hopefully without penalty, so we are exercising that option at this time.

Also we do not want to endanger any of our members by asking them to travel and to spend days in a large crowd. The health and safety of our Grange family comes first. We feel it may not be safe to gather, even by November. Many of your State Sessions will see major changes this year also. We hope you will understand this decision, and keep on working at the local level as much as you can to help your communities.

Fraternally, Betsy E. Huber, National Master

Page 3	Page 4	Page 5	Page 6	Page 7 & 8	Page 9 & 10
Changes due to Covid 19	Deaf Awareness Project	Missing the Grange	No Place for Racism	CS Report Info/ Membership Displays	Your Gardens/ DA Quilt Raffle

www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

Periodical postage paid at Durand, MI

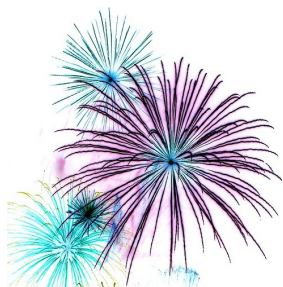
Michigan Grange News is published bi-monthly for the members of the Michigan State Grange.

Inquiries contact: Michigan State Grange
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Editor & Adv. Manager:
Christopher D. Johnston

Postmaster send address changes:
Christopher D. Johnston, Editor
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

July 4 Independence Day



CORONAVIRUS

PLEASE EVERYONE...

BE SAFE AND

STAY WELL!

Whole page	\$150.00
1/2 page	\$90.00
1/4 page / business card	\$50.00

The above rates include advertising space for two months.

Prices effective June, 1997. Payable in advance, check should be made to Michigan State Grange. Please include camera-ready copy. Copy to be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding date of insertion. Advertisements for alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Michigan State Grange reserves the right to refuse copy. Discounts available on multiple insertions.

6 issues per year, bi-monthly
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429
Tel: 989-288-4546
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

SUMMERTIME...

I love this season to brighten my days.
Not a cloud in the sky to hide the sun rays!
Grass is green as the tree leaves sway.
Playgrounds are filled as the children play!
My favorite song plays as I sing and grin.
Hand through the sunroof to feel the wind!
Warmth on my skin, sand under my feet,
Relaxing by the water, and my life is complete!
Laying on the beach fab and I'm all set,
Then reading a book and getting a tan on the deck.
Barefoot in the rain is a guilty pleasure.
My ice cream days are hidden treasure!
This season is euphoric is like no other
My favorite time of year...I call it summer...

GOING CRAZY DURING LOCKDOWN!

Just be careful because people are going crazy from being in lockdown! Actually, I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end, the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up, and the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the doorknob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to...yes, you guessed it...pull my self together!

JUNIOR GRANGE NEWS!

There will not be a display room at the annual convention this year, which means we will not be having any entries for the Juniors brought to the convention.

If you have already got entries ready...hold onto them for next year. The program will stay the same for next year, so you are ahead of the game. If you don't have any ready, you have extra time to do them.

Please check the program book for the information on the contests and get started.

A new program book will be included with your Jan-Feb, 2021 Michigan Grange News.

DETAILS & REGISTRATION AT GRANGEREVIVAL.COM



An occasion for all Patrons & Friends

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.com

Covid-19

What a challenge these last few months have been. I appreciate everyone who followed my decision to shutdown all Grange operations in the state. I know this has been especially difficult for those of us who have fundraising functions during this time. I understand the financial hardship this has put on our Granges and we can only hope for the best in the future. In the meantime as we await the Governor to allow everybody in the state to again assemble and meet as we need to, the Michigan State Grange Executive Committee has purchased a subscription to Zoom that is available to all of our Granges for meetings. If you are interested in using this option let me know and I can set up your meeting for you. For those who are not familiar with this program it is typically used as a video conference call on the internet, however you can also use any phone to call into the meeting.

State Session

Due to the pandemic we are making changes to the convention (Hopefully) just for this year. We will be meeting only on Saturday October 24th. During this meeting there will be no display room, no committee meetings, no conferral of the fifth and sixth degrees. We will open in the Sixth degree at 8 am, break for lunch, and finish in the afternoon. We will also be approving the budget, electing the officers, discussing the resolutions on the floor, having a short memorial service, and a short version of installation of officers. We will conclude with a banquet. Side note, as soon as possible, please get your resolutions into the state Secretary. I would like to email a copy of the resolutions and the proposed budget to the delegates ahead of the

convention to give them ample time to review those before we get to the session to limit discussion time. In addition to that, when you fill out your delegate information please include a good email for the delegates. The earlier in October I have that information, the earlier I can get it back out to the delegates. I do realize that our By-Laws indicate what time and day we will begin our convention, however, due to everything we have going on today in the world, due to the susceptibility to our members con-

tracting this virus, we really want to limit the amount of time we are together. The various department directors are outlining their plans for their respective departments in this edition of the Michigan Grange News. We are also asking that the session be limited to Officers, Department Directors, and Delegates only. More information is to come, but if you have any questions please let me know and I will answer them to the best of my ability.

National Grange

The National Grange had decided, before we decided on our session, that they were also going to limit the attendance and length of the National Grange Session. National will only be Tuesday and Wednesday instead of a full week. There will be no conferral of the seventh degree. And National is also being limited to Officers and Delegates and a few members of staff.

Until next time..... Stay Safe and Stay healthy.

"Cultivating Connections"



We are still selling the newest Michigan State Grange pin for \$5 if you are interested in a pin or two please contact the state Secretary.

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
Tel: 616-262-3516 E-mail: plswainston1@gmail.com

Deaf Awareness Essay and Poster Contest will not take place this year.
Save your entries for next year...program will be the same.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE DEAF AWARENESS DEPARTMENT "WINS BIG"

The National Grange Foundation was awarding two \$1,000 grants in their "We're in this Together" Deaf Awareness Project. A State Grange was to submit an application on a project they would like to do. With Peggy Johnston's help we completed an application and titled our application "Spreading the Signs". With the many posters we have regarding hearing and hearing awareness we should do something to share them with the public. We thought a good way would be to take 2 of the posters and send to each and every school district in the State. We selected the two most popular ones—The American Manual Alphabet and the Pledge of Allegiance.

A packet would include one each of the posters and a letter explaining not only the Grange but the Deaf Awareness Department. Also including in the letter would be information on how more posters could be ordered for their teachers free of charge with only having to pay for shipping. In Michigan we have 83 counties and at this point 587 school districts.

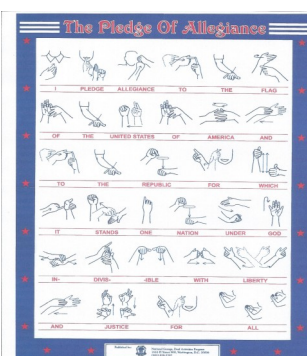
Our costs would be having more posters printed, envelopes to mail them in, labels for the envelopes, paper for the letters, printing of the letters and postage to mail them initially. We are aware that the \$1000 will not cover all of the expenses but with the Quilt Raffle and the Deaf Awareness Fund that will help. (FYI the \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior at the Michigan School for the Deaf and the Alexander Graham Bell Summer Camp Fund will not be affected. As of now I have contacted the school and did not receive a reply yet but the Scholarship will be kept aside until I can get a response. The summer camp has been canceled for this summer but we have sent them money for next year's camp.)

Now only would the State Grange be impacted by not only getting the name of the Grange out but the awareness of it out to the whole state. With these posters being available to all school districts in the State it would have an impact on every community that takes advantage of them. These are great learning tools for each and every teacher and student. They can be posted in the classrooms, where the students can learn the sign language on their own or through their teachers.

We feel that since we work hard each and every year to raise funds and do projects for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that this would be a way of giving back to hundreds of people throughout the State. We can only imagine the results we just might have from this and how many people across the State could have an impact on. Why have these posters and information is not to share it with others.

Although this will be a big undertaking we are looking forward to the outcome. Our plans are to get started this fall. If any Grange or Granger would like to help us financially it would be greatly appreciated.

I was contacted in May but Joan Smith, director/chairman of the National Grange Foundation informing me that we were **one of the two recipients of this \$1000 Grant. What an exciting surprise!** I had to go live on the National Grange Cultivating Connections and explain our project and our ideas. I was nervous but excited about our winning the Grange. If you are interested in seeing the video go to the National Grange website, videos, and check out Wednesday, May 27, at 8:30 p.m.



Tom Smith, Co-Director 816 4th Street, Three Rivers, MI 49093 Tel: 269-858-8305
Barbara Johnston, Co-Director 2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287 Tel: 517-431-2546 tnbjohnston@pc.com

No Family Activities Contests will be held this year...please save them until next year ...program will be the same.

Did everyone make it through the last 2 or 3 months without going crazy? Only in America could 100,000 people die and it becomes a political issue.

At least there was plenty of time to work on contest entries. It really gave me a lot of time to think about the Grange, and how I miss it when it's not there. No fellowship, activity, discussion, or pot-lucks! Here's hoping that when able, we all will be able to get back in a "Grange Frame of Mind". By that I mean service to our communities, tolerance for others, ideas and views and a willingness to try new things and do a little more for our organization.

You know, we have Grange Halls and meeting places throughout the state, but only use them once or twice a month. What kind of message does this convey to those who pass by? I thought about this quite a bit while we were more or less homebound and decided that there are many ways to take better advantage of our Grange.

While people were confined to home, many people were forced to actually prepare a meal. Flour flew off the shelves, but how many people had ever baked from scratch?

Here's the idea! Why not use our Grange halls to host classes, open to the community, in case we go through this again.

Here's just a few Family Activities ideas off the top of my head that might work, and I am sure your Grange can come up with many more.

Classes in home canning, scratch baking, ethnic cooking, quilting, various craft and needlework, time management, etc. I'm sure your local Cooperative Extension service could assist you.

And why stop there? How about boating safety, crafts for kids, local history, or a local issue of concern, health issues on many subjects.

Maybe once ever quarter, host a coffee hour with your State Representative or Senator, open to the public. Just try to discuss issues and not politics and personalities.

These are just a few ideas I came up with, feel free to add to it. Utilize the media in all forms. Who

knows, you might even gain some new members, but at least, let's show our communities we're more than a 1 day a month, couple hours, club like many others.

Quarterly Bulletins

Does your Grange take advantage of and use the quarterly bulletins from the Lecturer's, Deaf Awareness and Family Activities departments? We all try hard to present things to help you in your work at the local level, but we never get any feedback. Let us know if they are of help to you and if you have material to share, send it in!

Tips for Effective Leadership

Do's

- ◆ Consider yourself honored to be a leader and say so to those who place you in that role.
- ◆ Show your followers sincere appreciation.
- ◆ Speak in terms of your listeners' interests.
- ◆ Be careful of the tone of your voice.
- ◆ Take up only one solution to a problem at a time in group meetings.
- ◆ Have an eager desire to learn and communicate.
- ◆ Set an example by being at least twice as animated as you expect others to be.
- ◆ Give encouragement in every comment you make.
- ◆ When correcting someone's mistake, first praise the person for something they are doing right, then work on the problem.
- ◆ Read, study and think.
- ◆ Have a keen sense of timing and tempo. Keep your group moving at top speed.
- ◆ Be a good listener. Half of communicating is listening.
- ◆ Talk about your own mistakes before criticizing others.

Don'ts

- ◆ Never imitate others. Be yourself.
- ◆ Don't play yourself up. Be modest.
- ◆ Don't say "I", say "we".
- ◆ Never interrupt others.
- ◆ Don't resent criticism. Welcome it.
- ◆ Instead of making direct assertions, ask questions.
- ◆ Don't emphasize trivial things.
- ◆ Never excuse yourself from people who feel they have failed. Work with them until they are satisfied with their progress.
- ◆ Don't talk about things that you know nothing about.

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
Tel: 269-365-0401 jacqueline_bishop@hotmail.com

Whew! I suspect that for many of us, since about mid-March, there have been some trying times. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it fear, concern over the loss of certain rights, and a somewhat higher emotional level for many of us. Each of us has our own specific concerns during this time, and it is not always easy on any given day dealing with the stress. Mother Nature even seemed to be emotional as the Midland floods caused many to lose their homes, and severe storms left people without power for up to four days.

Following, or at about the same time, a series of significant events have led us to consider another topic that is emotional for everyone, no matter what your personal beliefs and feelings are. Our country continues to grapple with its relationship with race.

As Lecturer, I am tasked with providing education and presenting factual information, so far as that is possible. I took some notes this afternoon regarding the topic, but came upon the National Grange statement released and posted to the National Grange Facebook page and the website on June 9. Since many of you may not have easy access to either of these, I decided to copy that post below and forego additional comments.

I hope that each of you has the opportunity to think about the statement below, and what it might mean to you as we move forward, as a country and as the Grange.



Only Two Lecturer's Department Contests will take place this year...

Creative Writing: (1 class) Story: My Favorite Holiday (400-600 words)

Photography: (3 classes) Animals, People In Action, Scenes: (no people or animals in photo)

All entries due by Sept. 10. Electronic Submissions only (files 100MB or less)

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be given and announced at State Convention.

The National Grange unequivocally opposes racism. The voices of Grange members across our country join those who cry out in sorrow for the lives lost to racist actions, for the divisions racism has cleaved between us and for the inequality that racism has spawned across our beloved nation.

Since our founding in 1867, we have lived by our motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." We have always welcomed and invited people of all races, creeds, religions and nationalities into our membership. We have asked none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings, who are willing to put to work their generous hearts and open hands to raise all their neighbors and communities.

Our Grange founders provided us a Declaration of Purposes for our organization that addressed a need for unity and civil discourse: "We shall constantly strive to secure harmony, good will, and brotherhood... We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices... We desire a proper equality, and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power." These words still guide us today.

One does not merely join the Grange, but lives by the principles of faith, hope, charity and fidelity and loving their neighbor as themselves.

We have a deep commitment to the freedoms of speech, expression and peaceful protest enshrined in our Constitution for all people. The Grange's Declaration of Purposes also teaches us that "...difference of opinion is no crime. Progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion, while the fault lies in the bitterness of the controversy." Therefore we urge everyone to exercise their individual rights of expression in a civil and respectful manner. Each day, law enforcement officers must uphold the law equally while exercising good judgment and compassion.

Just as we do in each of our meetings, we must meet the peaceful expressions of various opinions with open ears and open hearts.

In this time of social unrest and anxiety, Grange members renew our pledge to combat prejudice and racism and will continue to strive to do better. We continue our 153-year-old tradition of welcoming all to our membership, building an inclusive family fraternity and providing our communities with a place for civil discussion and proactive, positive change.

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Tel: 269-209-6640 Email: roccomaryann@yahoo.com

Welcome Summer!

As our communities are opening up, we are able to hold small gatherings and meeting. We still need to be aware of the Corona Virus Pandemic. I recently saw a program that outlined some safety guidelines for potlucks or other gatherings where food is served.

- ♦ Use paper plates and plastic silverware
- ♦ Bring pre-portioned individual servings
- ♦ If you have a dish that needs to be served, wearing a mask and gloves, you serve all participants
- ♦ Outside areas are the best for functions if possible
- ♦ Remember to wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands

Something New

Recently we were notified about a new program from National Grange called "Outreach Graduation."

- ♦ Operation Graduation is a program where personal letters will be sent to Grange members nominated by their local granges, who have graduated from Kindergarten, 8th grade, High School or College. National Grange President and National Grange Junior Director will be signing/sending a letter to the Kindergarten and 8th grade graduates. National Grange President and National Grange Youth Director will be signing/sending letters for high school and College graduate. Local Granges may also want to send a letter of reorganization to their graduates. Another way to honor our graduates is to invite them to a meeting or dinner to honor them.

Community Service Report

- ♦ **The due date for the Community Service Report is September 10th, 2020. This means that your book needs to be delivered to the State Community Service Director on or before that date.** (If a special arrangement needs to be made for the delivery of your Community Service Report please contact me.)

Mary Ann Rocco 145 Beadle Lake Drive
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
(Just a little note, when mailing your materials

please put Drive on the address. There is also a Beadle Lake and a Beadle Lake Road in this area.)
269-209-6640 roccomaryann@yahoo.com
August 31st marks the end of our Community Service year. We have all missed many of our annual community services projects. In these unusual times we have had to find smaller individual community service projects to help our neighbors.

The Notebook Reports

- ♦ Please place the summary report at the beginning of the Notebook. It is required!
- ♦ Please do not send more than one Notebook. Notebooks cannot be larger than a 2 inch binder
- ♦ Videotapes and computer discs cannot be used in place of a report for judging.

Organize the Notebooks.

- ♦ Tell the your story as you organize your project
- ♦ Group the projects together
- ♦ Keep items that support your projects, like thank you letters and newspaper articles, with or without photos.
- ♦ Simplify your notebook by selecting the best couple of photos for each project.

Ways to Organize

- ♦ Organize by New Projects and Continuing Projects
- ♦ Or-Organize in chronological order from the beginning to the end of the year
- ♦ Or -Organize by the largest projects to the smallest projects
- ♦ Keep the page clean and concise
- ♦ List all project at the beginning of the book (Index)
- ♦ Donations for a project should be noted
- ♦ If tabs are use make sure they are secured so they don't fall out
- ♦ Remember the notebook maximum size is a 2-inch binder.

Something to think about

- ♦ Each State Grange may submit one nominee for each category, **Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Award**. Nominees need to be turned in with your Community Service Report, as I need to mail them on to National Grange. Nomination Forms will be mailed at a later date.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Display

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net

Welcome to summer! It's hard to believe another Grange year is almost done. Hopefully your Grange has been able to have virtual meetings or are back to meeting in person. It has been quite a year so far!

I hope to see an increase in membership for Michigan this year. Of course this also means each Grange needs to do their part to get members. Pledge cards were mailed in January to membership directors or masters. Please take the time to return these. You can take a photo and text or email them to me.

I asked Granges to create a membership display for the MSG membership department. The goal is to create a display promoting your Grange and to use it in the community your Grange serves. Hopefully you were able to create this display and have it in your community prior to COVID. I won't take the space to go into specifics about the program. It is in your Program Book or you may contact me for information.

I hope to see many submissions of what you did to promote the Grange! Reminder that your entry needs to be to me by **October 1**.

Stay safe and enjoy the beautiful days of summer!
Tricia



- ♦ Nominations for Dedicated Worker Award (is to honor someone in your community that has made a difference. Giving public recognitions to those Who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done.)
- ♦ Nominations for Very Important Person Award (is for each Grange to honor a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Grange.) Additional information on your Community Service notebooks can be found in the March-April issue of the Michigan Grange News.

FYI The first place Community Service Report that moves on to the National Grange will be scanned and emailed this year. This is your opportunity to tell the story of your Grange in a neat and concise manner. The Physical book will not be taken to the National Grange this year.

Remember your Community Service reports are due to Mary Ann by September 10, 2020.

Thank you and keep up all the good work you are doing for your community during these times. No service is too big or too small to count.

Wishing everyone a Happy 4th of July. Mary Ann

In Memory Of



Gordon Groves

Past Indiana State Grange Master and friend to many Michigan Grangers passed away May 7, 2020 at his home in Goshen, IN. His wife Lucille passed away in December 2018. He is survived by two daughters, Meribethe Lawton of Goshen and Carijo (Eric) West of Denver, CO. One son Randall of Goshen, IN, four step-grandchildren, two sisters.

*Well Done
Good and
Faithful Servant
You will be missed at our
Conventions*

2020 Annual Michigan State Grange Convention

"CHANGES"

Only State Officer, Department Directors and Delegates will be in attendance

Convention will be for only one day
September 24th

Working on resolutions, election of officers, approval of the budget, Memorial Service, shortened version of Installation of Officers and finishing with a banquet.

There will not be a display room, committee meetings or degree work this year.

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
Tel: 269-684-3870 E-mail: Kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

Wow July!? Where did the first 6 months of 2020 go to? I wish it would have taken COVID-19 along with it so we could get back to a little bit of normal living now. I hope everyone that plants a garden was able to get their plants before the stores sold out of vegetables early this season. We were able to get our plants before what we wanted were sold out including our seed potatoes. We planted our seed potatoes late yet again this year but Mom and Dad put theirs in the garden here at the house so they could be watered with the rest of our shared garden. We had a good crop of potatoes last year with planting them by way of the Ruth Stout method of gardening. This method will require basically very little watering and no weeding when done correctly. It is a system where you are “composting” the materials back into the soils during the winter months including the plants/vines from the growing season! No more need to use the rototiller. I hope this works well! Google Ruth Stout method of gardening. There are videos and everything on the internet on this form of gardening plus others as well.



We are a few short months now from our 2020 State Session that is being held at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in Grayling. It is going to look and be different this year due to the Pandemic but we as an organization need to keep our fellow Brothers and Sisters safe. Because of the changes that were made **the Agriculture Department will NOT be holding in contest classes to enter this year.** It is unfortunate but there just isn't enough time to set up displays and receive enters and have judges do the judging so the Department Directors can get the paperwork done and ribbons presented all while we all need to be in Session as Delegates. We have lots that must be accomplished in one day this year. **With that said, all Ag Dept. classes from this year will roll over into next year's Program Book.** I am sorry if you have been growing something special for the contest classes but maybe you can share with friends or food banks that are struggling to provide food to those in need. **If you have pictures to share of your gardens please feel free to forward to the**

Worthy Secretary and maybe we can get them included in one of the issues of the MGN!

Fair season this year is going to look very different thanks to COVID-19. I have not heard of any County Fair thus far that has not canceled/postponed 2020 until the time they will have it in 2021. It is sad but a hard decision for Fair Boards to make this year. My local county fair that I exhibited at and currently volunteer each year was to celebrate our 75th Anniversary and had lots of special things planned to help celebrate. They are now hosting the Berrien County 2020 Showcase – Youth are Essential during our normal fair week. The bad side of this is that no public is invited and it is just a “Show and Go” type event where you bring your animal in for the day, show it and take it home. No auctions are being held that I am aware of so many families will be left trying to find a way to get something in return on their investments on the cost of the animal and feed. If you hear of a family that is looking for people to buy the animal(s) and you have room in your freezer for a pig or maybe even a half of beef etc., please think about helping them out. My family is in that same situation and we will be working hard to figure out what to do with 3 market hogs. As of right now the market price on hogs is very low, so that really isn't an option either. Also, if your local County Fair is hosting any type of special fund raiser please support them. These funds will no means make up what they are going to lose by not holding their weeklong event. Lots of Fairs are sponsoring “Drive Thru Fair Food” events which is also giving food vendors that are at these fairs a chance to make a little income as well. This pandemic has hurt so many people and businesses that we would not have thought it would hurt until you think about all of the year round events that aren't happening because of health concerns. Here is hoping your gardens are growing or will be and that your harvest is bountiful. Until the next MGN....

What kind of cow helps with the gardening?

A lawnmooer...

A friend perfected his garden flower beds through a process of trowel and error.

DEAF AWARENESS QUILT RAFFLE

Proceeds will go towards our new Deaf Awareness Project to make our posters more available and visible throughout the state.

We will be drawing for this Queen Size Very Colorful Quilt at the Annual Convention in October.
(quilt is trimmed in black, with each letter of the alphabet in colors such as, red, blue, yellow, lavender, green.etc.)

Tickets are available

They Sell for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Please contact the State Office for tickets

