



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXXI NO.2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL, 2025

## APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH

- What are your Grange's plans to celebrate during this important month?
- Do you do a display in a store window, Library, or even your own Grange hall?
- Do you put a special article in your newspaper regarding your Grange and your activities for the month?
- Do you plan a special meeting where you invite non members in to give honors to the Dedicated Worker, Community Citizen, VIP, Fireman, Law Enforcement Officer, Teacher of the Year, and any membership recognition awards out. Great time for this event!
- Maybe just a special dinner and game night for members.
- Use your imagination and come up with a unique way or even a not so unique way, maybe one you do each year event.

**JUST BE SURE TO CELEBRATE GRANGE MONTH!!**

**ST. JOSEPH/CASS/KALAMAZOO  
POMONA #4  
WILL CELEBRATE 150 YEARS**

**APRIL 19, 2025  
2 P.M.-5 P.M.**

**BURR OAK GRANGE HALL  
106 S. 5TH STREET, BURR OAK, MI**

**R.S.V.P. LUCILE BLOOM  
269-314-8009**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

**2025 MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE  
CONVENTION WILL BE HELD  
AT THE COMSTOCK INN, OWOSSO,  
MI**

**OCTOBER 16-18, 2025**

**WATCH FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
IN THE UPCOMING ISSUES  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS**

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# Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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## MARCH HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED AS MICHIGAN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MONTH

The food and agriculture month is to celebrate Michigan’s farmers, the diversity of products grown and processed in our state, and the partnerships that keep our food and agriculture industry thriving.

To kick off the month long celebration, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) launched the 2025 edition of *Michigan Agriculture* magazine at Deeply Rooted Produce in Detroit.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer says “this March we recognize all the Michiganders who work hard every day to make us a global good and agriculture powerhouse. Thanks to our family farmers and cutting edge businesses, we are home to a more than \$100 billion food and ag industry that employs hundreds of thousands of people in good paying jobs.”

Throughout Michigan Good and Agriculture Month, MDARD will highlight unique parts of Michigan’s food and agriculture sector while featuring how the industry positively impacts, improves, and protects the lives of Michiganders.

- March 9,** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17,** St. Patrick’s Day
- April 1-30,** Grange Month
- April 19,** St. Joseph/Cass/ Kalamazoo Pomona 150th Celebration
- April 20,** Easter Sunday

Thank You



To All Farmers



### In Memory of

#### Helen Mudd 1938 –2024

Sister Helen Mudd, a golden sheaf member of Studley Grange #1174 of Midland County passed away on November 28, 2024.

Helen was a past Junior Grange Director for the Michigan State Grange as well as a Co-Community Service Director.

Helen had served in many ways in the Studley Grange, the Pomona Grange and the State Grange. Always willing to step up to help. She was well known in her



area for the many quilts she made. She worked for the Dow Chemical Company and the Bullock Creek Schools.

She is survived by her husband Ted, Daughter Tricia Eidsmoe (Eric), sons David (Melissa) Mudd and Kevin (Heather) Mudd. Also six grandchildren and many other relatives.

Her funeral was held at St. Brigid of Kildare of Midland on December 5th. Sister Helen will be missed by many.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

Whole page	\$150.00
1/2 page	\$90.00
1/4 page / business card	\$50.00
\$40.00	

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  
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## Day of Learning

Mark your calendars for March 29, 2025 at Fredonia Grange #1713 in Marshall, MI. This all day event is for you to hear from the department directors on their programs. Lunch will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish to pass. Come for the learning and enjoy the fun and fellowship that comes with all Grange events.

## National Grange Project Sustenance

The National Grange has developed another project for local Granges to participate in. This is based on three pillars: Food Security, Self-sustainability, Individual and Community Resilience. Below is the basic information about the program, but there is a lot more information on their website

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance/>

*From the National Grange Website:*

Food security is multi-dimensional. Availability, access, affordability, use and stability of food and clean water are each a piece of the puzzle. In the United States, about one out of every seven people are food insecure according to feeding America.

Most people assume that in rural communities where most food is grown, food is abundant, accessible, affordable, and the supply is stable, yet rural Americans are more likely to face food scarcity, live in food deserts, encounter challenges to clean drinking water, and have economic challenges to accessing food with adequate nutrition.

Granges, since our earliest days, have tackled the issue of food insecurity from every angle. From the fight against railroad monopolies charging farmers exorbitant rates to ship food and threatening the food supply chain for millions, to common modern Grange events and projects such as low-cost community dinners, free food pantries, and community gardens, Granges are no stranger to finding innovative ways to ensure members, their neighbors, and those around the nation and world can access food. Each of these modern projects fall under the first ribbon of the Project Sustenance banner.

In addition, many pieces of National Grange policy align with this portion of Project Sustenance,

such as advocacy for the Farm Bill and funding for infrastructure projects to ensure clean water for rural communities.

## Grange Month

While any month can be Grange month, we choose April to be the month to celebrate, engage, promote, and invite Grange. We celebrate our accomplishments, engage the public in our endeavors, promote ourselves and our programs, award deserving individuals and invite friends and family to join us in our mission.

## Grange Revival

For those looking for a summer trip across the country..... Look no further, the bi-annual Grange Revival is happening again this year in Utah. Thousand Lakes RV Park in Torrey, Utah will be home to Grange campers, aka members, from across the country. If you are considering making this trip please visit the National Grange website for all the necessary details.

<https://www.grangerevival.com/>

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With Spring and Summer just around the corner (I hope), comes working in the yard, gardens, and fields. Using lawnmowers, garden tractors, leaf blowers, weed trimmers to large tractors and other machinery.

Are you prepared to protect your hearing? Several years ago we had available brochures and posters called "Your Noisy World Could Get Silent." We no longer have the posters available, however I do have a hand full of the brochures.

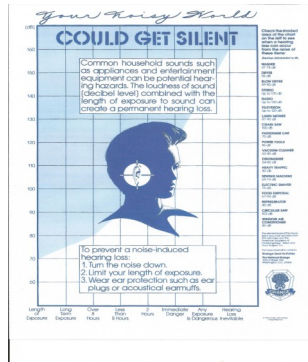
I thought this month I would go over some of the information regarding decibels and just how various items can hurt our hearing if not protected against it.

The brochure starts out saying that Noise is more than a nuisance and I really do believe sometimes it truly is. Our ears are constantly being assaulted by the racket of the modern world. I live in town and I have to put up with the noise of the loud vehicles, motorcycles and in my neighborhood the trains going by, especially during the summer when the windows are open. It's not something that you know is going to happen so you could protect your hearing.

Normal everyday sounds are loud enough to damage your hearing if you hear it often enough.

Such as these items:

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Washer 40 dB                 | power tools 85 dB       |
| Dryer 55 dB                  | Vacuum 62-85 dB         |
| Blow Dryer 59-80 dB          | Dishwasher 54-85 dB     |
| Stereo, up to 120 dB         | Heavy traffic 80 dB     |
| Radio, up to 120 dB          | Sewing machine 64-74 dB |
| TV, up to 120 dB             | Electric Shaver 75 dB   |
| Lawn Mower 87-95 dB          | Food Disposal 67-94 dB  |
| Chain saw 100 dB             | Refrigerator 40 dB      |
| Passenger car 70 dB          | Circular Saw 103 dB     |
| Window Air Conditioner 80 dB |                         |



The loudness of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The human ear can typically hear sounds between 0 dB and 120–140 dB.

### Examples of decibel levels:

- **0 dB:** The quietest sound a healthy human ear can hear
- **20 dB:** Whispering at 5 feet
- **40 dB:** A quiet library
- **60 dB:** Ordinary spoken conversation
- **85 dB:** A food blender
- **110 dB:** A live gig or concert
- **120 dB:** Thunder
- **130 dB:** An aeroplane taking off 100m away
- **140 dB:** Fireworks, gun shots, custom car stereos (at full volume)

### Effects of loud noises:

- Extended exposure to sounds above 85 dB can cause hearing damage.
- Exposure to 70 decibels over a period of 24 hours is considered a level that can prevent measurable hearing loss over a lifetime.

There are so many ways to protect your hearing from earplugs to earmuffs to just staying away from those loud noises that you can and how about turning the volume down on the TV and radios.



Losing your hearing is no fun for anyone. I know a lot of people that struggle with hard of hearing, some with hearing aids some that don't. Even those with hearing aids have problems at times if they are in a room that has a lot of noise or a lot of people talking at once.



**The International symbol of Deafness**

Take caution: Protect your hearing!!

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878  
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It's March already!! and April isn't far behind! Have you planned ahead for Grange Month? There are numerous resources available on the National Grange website to get you started. Have you visited the National Grange Facebook page? Even more ideas there! The Upton Grange in Massachusetts recently posted a very informative article on Susan B. Anthony. The text from the article is below. I hope this helps you build a program for Grange Month. The Grange was the fore-runner including women as a full member of the organization from its inception. We can thank Caroline Hall for her insistence that the woman's role on the farm was important to the success of the farm/community success, and the Grange should recognize that with full membership.

### Susan B. Anthony 1820-1906

Ms. Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts. Ms. Anthony is noted for being an American reformer and was one of the greatest leaders in the advancement of women. She founded the first state Women's Temperance Society and was one of the founders of the National Woman Suffrage Association. She was very active in the anti-slavery movement. In 1869 she founded the Woman's Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She was arrested, tried and fined in 1872 for attempting to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment in New York. Susan Anthony looked to the Grange for support in her cause, since women in the Grange were equal to men in all the roles within the organization. Many Grange women supported her cause. On November 10, 1895 Ms. Anthony wrote a letter to The National Grange and delegates. The letter is as follows: My dear Friends: --I see by the newspapers that you are to meet in national convention in the good city of Worcester on November 13th, and while feeling grateful for the many resolutions you have passed in favor of woman's enfranchisement during the last several years, and also for your practical recognition of "equal rights for all" by the election of women to the various offices of your association, I still want to remind you that now is the time for you to give a stronger expression in favor of woman suffrage than ever before. We have

obtained school suffrage from the legislatures of twenty-three states, municipal suffrage from one, full suffrage by constitutional provisions in three, and there are today pending woman suffrage amendments to the state constitutions of five different states, viz: New York, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and California. In California, the amendment is to be voted upon at the election of 1896, and you surely will agree with me that the hope of carrying it depends very largely upon the constituencies of the Patrons of Husbandry and of the Grange in that state. It therefore becomes the duty of your National Convention to send out recommendations, if not instructions, to your local branches in California to do all in their power to carry the amendment at the polls. The suffrage Amendment Committee of California with Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper and Mrs. Ellen Clark Sargent at its head, is now organizing township societies throughout the rural districts and ward societies in the cities, for the purpose of forwarding the educational work on this question and a word of encouragement from your national body will do a great deal to stimulate the members of your branches in that state to unite with and help on the work of this campaign committee. In the hope that you will throw the weight of your influence on the side of the establishment of a genuine "republican form of government" in every state in the Union, and wishing you the best of success in your convention, I am, Very sincerely yours, Susan B Anthony The National Grange continued to support the women's suffrage movement over the years, and even had a Committee on Woman's Suffrage. At the fiftieth annual session of the National Grange, this Committee made the following recommendations: 1. That the National Grange reaffirm its unqualified endorsement of woman's suffrage and urge all State Granges to take similar action. 2. That the National Grange endorse and support the movement to secure equal suffrage by amendment of the Federal Constitution. Susan B. Anthony's last public appearance was at the National Grange Convention in 1903. Once again, the women of the Grange help form our country.

Resources: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/150th-Mailing-FINAL.pdf>

A Brief Biography of Susan B Anthony by Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Journal of Proceedings of the National Grange 1895, Vol.26-29 page 49.

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014  
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## Wishing everyone a Happy Saint Patrick Day! And a Blessed Easter.

Hopefully Spring is right around the corner!

National Grange has given some do's and don't on creating your Community Service Books.

The Community Service Team, share the following suggestions when putting together your Community Service book. They need to remind us that these are just suggestions to make the book flow better and make it easier on the people putting it together. State Granges may have different ideas or suggestions. More pages or larger books are not always better. Good organization is important. **This is not a history book of everything your Grange did in a year, just the Community Service projects.** It is important that the name of your Grange is on the front of the book.

### Suggested DO's

- Include a short write up about your Grange and Community. (1 page max)
- Limit pages to no more than 4 (front and back) for larger projects and 2 (front and back) for smaller projects
- Include 2 or 3 photos that demonstrate members (& non-members if applicable) participation and items collected. If it is a cleanup type project before and after photos.
- 1 or 2 Thank You cards/letters for an event.
- An overall summary sheet listing continuing projects, new projects, larger and smaller projects and list of donations. Then utilize this format for the organization of the community service book.
- Include any newspaper article or flyer about the event. When holding a fundraiser dinner/event it is important to include where the monies were donated.

### Suggested DON'Ts

- Don't include things like State session programs in this book, officer and member rosters and meeting minutes.
- Don't include members or family obituaries because the family used your hall after the funeral.
- Don't include every thank you note/letter you get from a project. One is enough, not all 30 from a class you donated dictionaries to.
- Mowing the grass at the Grange Hall – maintenance not community service.

If you have any questions, feel free to email [communityservice@grange.org](mailto:communityservice@grange.org).

Our Granges are doing many exciting projects throughout their communities. I would love to share something your Grange is or has done this year. Just let me know and I'll put it in the Michigan Grange News.

Michigan's Community Service reports should include,

### The Notebook Reports:

- The summary report should be placed at the beginning of the Notebook. This form is required!
- Material should be organized. Suggested ways to submit the Notebook is to have the projects grouped together by the size of the project, chronologically or have your Notebook read like a book. Easy to read and follow activities. This is your opportunity to tell the story of your Grange in a neat and concise manner.
- Please do not send more than one Notebook. Notebooks cannot be larger than a 2-inch binder! More isn't always better!
- Videotapes and computer discs cannot be used in place of a report for judging.

### Projects:

- Describe the new and old project(s) that will answer the Who? What? Where? When? Why? And How?
- Why did you choose this project? Did it benefit the community? Did you overcome obstacles? Did you record what you would do differently?
- Would you recommend this type of project to other Granges?
- Include the details of the work. Were there special committees? Did it take cooperation of other groups? How many Grangers and non-Grangers were involved? What did you accomplish? Describe your successes.
- Include support materials used such as publicity, pictures, news articles & letters.
- Keep the report concise. Include only material that directly impacts the projects you are explaining.
- On the Project List pages: List the projects, the approximate number of hours spent on each project. List the number of Grangers and non-Grangers who assisted with the project. If more space is needed use additional pages.

**Community Service Reports are due  
September 10th, 2025.**



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

Spring is just around the corner!!

It is February 22<sup>nd</sup> as I sit and write to you. Winter finally showed up in February here in my part of Michigan. We had bitter cold and finally some decent snow falls. Now we are looking to finish February with temps in the 40s and rain. At least we received moisture to help replenish the ground prior to growing season.

I hope everyone that plants a garden, no matter the size, took the time to plan their garden plantings for this growing season. It won't be long, and we will be out working up the soil in preparation to plant and reap the harvest through the growing year.

Yes, snow is a part of everyday life during winter in our community. And don't we often wish we didn't have to live with it, but we couldn't live without it.

I hope you also took time to look over all of the class offerings not only in the Agriculture Department but all of the contests for every Department in the new Program Book that was in the last issue of the MGN. There are lots of activities for young and old in the Program Book.

Things have really changed in Washington D.C. since my last article and not for the good I am afraid. Some things might end up okay but there will be main programs I am afraid will be cut completely or a large portion of the funding cut. This is not good for our Agriculture sector in the United States especially here in Michigan. I agree there is much over-spending in our Nation but the way things are being done is going to grind our Nation to a standstill. We voted for people to represent us in our State Capitol and our Nation's Capitol. They are not representing the masses, but only the 1%. We as Grange Members need to band together like our forefathers did when the Grange was first formed. We need to stand for what is right and help those that aren't being heard. Now is the time to rally our friends to join us as we know from our past that our Grange voice can make a change!

If you are able to buy local, please support your neighbors or the small businesses in your communities over shopping at the Big Box stores. The small businesses and your neighbors will be the first ones to be hurt by the lack of funding or cut programs.

I will get off of my soap box and close my article. Please remember that Spring is a time for new beginnings and growth. I hope you all are able to Grow your Grange!

Here is hoping 2025 is another great Grange year for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends!  
Until later....

**FOUNDATION**

**Scholarship**

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878  
Tel: (H)906-644-2319 (C)906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

The next meeting of the Foundation will be Sunday, April 20 beginning at 3:00 via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please let myself or Connie Johnston know and we'll send you the Zoom link.

The Foundation is working diligently on preparing an application for the newly formed Roland and Beulah Winter Scholarship. The scholarship may be used by any student enrolled or enrolling in higher education at an institution of their choice. Applicants will include Grange members and their family, 4H and FFA students. Letters of recommendation from activity leaders, academics, community involvement and a letter of introduction will all be a part of the application. We are hoping to be able to announce the full scholarship details after our April 20th meeting. We will also determine the amount of the scholarship, and how many will be offered each year.

Don't forget the deadline for any Student Loan is coming up June 1. If you know of a student in need of an additional \$1,000 for higher education school expenses, have them visit the Michigan Grange website for details and application. The loan is interest free and doesn't need to be paid back until one year after the student graduates.

Wishing you all a beautiful spring.

**MSG FOUNDATION,**  
**Jackie Bishop, Sec/Treas.**  
**479 Tuscany Drive**  
**Portage, MI 49024**

Please accept my donation to help support the Mission of the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **In Memory**  
**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Anniversary**

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Deceased**

**Donations made by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other**

**Thank you for your Support!**

## FUNDRAISING

## Afghan Blanket Raffle

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

**Hello everyone.**

We have an update on the **Afghan Blanket Raffle!** Connie Johnston has applied for the license with the State of Michigan Gaming Commission. Once she receives the approved license and our raffle number, she will begin printing tickets. We will be starting with 1,000 tickets but will print more as needed, which I really hope we need to! Here is the information on the raffle:

The drawing will be held on **October 18, 2025** at the **Michigan State Grange Celebration Banquet** which is being held at the **Comstock Inn & Conference Center** in Owosso Michigan. The drawing will take place at 8:30pm that evening and the winners need not be present to win. **1<sup>st</sup> prize will be the KING size handmade Afghan Blanket, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize will be the QUEEN size handmade Afghan Blanket and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize will be a \$50 Shell Gas Card and a \$25 Lowe's Card. Tickets will sell for \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.** Tickets will be available to each Grange or Grange member, and we ask that everyone help sell these tickets. Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check or money order payable to Michigan State Grange in the care of Kevin Young MSG Treasurer 60822 Creek Rd., Niles MI 49120. Once the funds have been deposited and have been posted to the MSG bank account, copies of the completed tickets along with the ticket stubs will be mailed back to the purchaser. Please remember that this fundraiser has not cost the State Grange anything but the license fee so far. All the work on the blankets has been donated, from the making of each square to the sewing together of the squares and even the shipping back and forth from Michigan to Washington State and back to Michigan. Even the gift cards were donated. If we put a good effort into selling tickets, this will bring in a great deal of money by Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.

I hope everyone is collecting the Grange Dollars to turn in at the State Session in October. This was a wonderful fund-raising project that all can participate in. We collected over \$2,000 last year and I feel we can do that again if not more if we all do our part. If you do not wish to collect the "G" dollars, we will take any currency and coins you would like to collect as we are also do the "Pennies from Heaven" →

## MEMBERSHIP

## Retaining

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

**Welcome to spring!**

Reminder that this year's program is simple – retain the members you have on your roster. For Granges that do not drop any members during the membership year (July 1 through June 30), there will be a reward and recognition at state session.

I will also reward all the Granges that take in new members. I know it is not easy to get members. For the Granges that are able to do this, they will be rewarded and recognized at state session also. The more members you take in, the better the reward.

As I am overwhelmed with family matters, I will not be sending out quarterly bulletins this year. All the information you will need for the 2025 program will be included in my MGN articles. If your Grange does not have a membership chairman, please make sure this information is presented to your Grange.

Please reach out if you have any questions about membership.

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

## GOOD DAY MAGAZINE

Are you interested in subscribing to the Good Day Magazine via US mail? Go to: [issuu.com/grangegoodday](http://issuu.com/grangegoodday) to sign up for an electronic subscription or [nationalgrange.org/goodday](http://nationalgrange.org/goodday) and subscribe or

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grange name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

With this form, include a check made payable to National Grange for \$16 or simply include your phone number so we can call you to take a credit card payment by phone.

collection as well.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future fundraising projects, I would love to hear from you. I had one Grange member mention she would be willing to donate one of her handmade quilts so that could happen in the near future. Stay tuned....


**UPDATE!! TICKETS ARE READY AND WILL BE SENT TO THE GRANGES TO SELL.**






MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

# Day of Learning



COME HEAR FROM THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS  
ABOUT THEIR PROGRAMS, FUN, AND MORE!



FREDONIA GRANGE HALL  
13738 C DRIVE NORTH, MARSHALL, MI

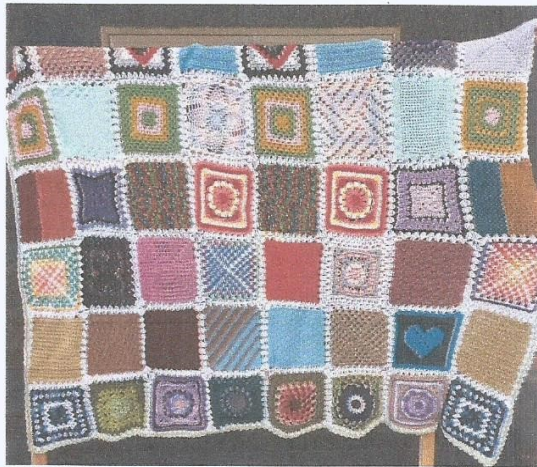
**29 MARCH 2025**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**POTLUCK LUNCH**



# MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE HANDMADE GRANNY SQUARE AFGHAN RAFFLE



1st Place - King



2nd Place - Queen



3rd Place  
Shell & Lowe's  
Gift Cards

**TICKETS \$1.00 EACH**  
**OR 6 FOR \$5.00**

Drawing on October 18, 2025 at 8:30 PM  
Comstock Inn and Conference Center  
Owosso, Michigan

Contact the Michigan State Grange for tickets  
[msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com)

License: R79494

989-288-4546