

Agricultural Committee Annual report.

I want to thank the 2018-2019 Agricultural Committee for their assistance throughout this year. They are: George and Glenda Barker, Karen Hatch Gagne, Willie Grenier, William and Shirley Hatch, Carl and Sandra Moon, Henry and Sharon Morton, Bob and Agnes Nelson, Rance and Elanor Pooler, Steve and Sue Verrill, and Rebecca Wentworth.

The first event of 2019 was the Maine Agricultural Trade Show in Augusta in January where we had a manned display set up by Sharon and Henry. Some of the Agricultural Committee members and several wonderful Grange Patrons staffed the booth 3 days. Many folks stopped by our booth asking questions and expressed interest in joining a Grange in their areas. Information was provided.

Tickets were sold at the trade show on a Maine-made basket with lots of Maine goodies. The basket and other items will be raffled off at the Maine State Annual Session in October.

We provided fudge at the State House on Maine Agricultural day to the legislators and all who were around. A huge thank you to Sharon and Henry Morton for passing out the fudge and to all who made and donated fudge for the Grange table at the Capitol and those who talked with legislators.

The committee received seven Agricultural Scholarship applications this year. A \$500 scholarship was awarded to each of five very worthy recipients each advancing their education in agricultural related fields.

- Tyson Todd Gray, Bucksport High School, Environmental Horticulture
- Audrey Marie Goodwin-Whitmore, Ellsworth High School, Zoology /Wildlife
- Gabriel Francis Lovering, Edward Little High School, Wildlife Ecology
- Marielle Ruth Pelletie, Mount Blue High School, Animal Science Pre-vet
- Mackenzy R. Labrie, Winslow High School, Animal Science

Sharon, Henry and I attended the Annual Maine Fair Association meeting in Portland and another meeting in Fryeburg. Sharon and I worked to tweak the Fair exhibit information, guidelines and judging sheets. We sent information out to the all Maine Agricultural Fairs, Granges and fair judges, in preparation for the fair season. We are receiving reports slowly from our agricultural fairs regarding the placing of our Grange exhibits and I will share that information when it is complete. We have had many positive comments. Thank you, Grangers for taking time to put together these wonderful displays of our members many talents. Every item brought many smiles from the passers-by. A very special thank you to all our Grange members who were judges this year and I hope you will consider doing it again next year.

The Maine State Grange Booth was set up thanks to State Grange members. Special recognition goes to Steven Haycock and Norma Meserve who set up an outstanding display at several of the Agricultural Fairs around the state. Several Grange Ag committee members are assisting at the Grange store at Fryeburg Fair and others will be manning The Grange Booth during the fair, also.

The 2019 outstanding tree farmer winners are _____. They have managed their Farm in Maine since _____. We will present a plaque to them at state session.

The Grange Agricultural Enterprise award is open to Grange members and non-members may also be nominated. Applicants must earn at least a portion of their income from their farm and can consist of most any type of commodity which is commonly grown in Maine and/ or agricultural practices.

At the Grange annual convention, we are planning an Ag table with raffle items and proceeds to go toward our agricultural scholarship fund. Hope to see you there.

The Ag committee will be helping with the Maine Ag In The Classroom annual meeting to be held Wednesday October 23rd, 2019 at the Maine State Grange headquarters. We will be preparing and serving the dinner to all MAITC participants. We will be looking for pies to serve that night and people to serve the meal.

The State Agricultural Committee is looking for people interested in joining and actively participating in our Ag committee to support Maine Agriculture. Let the State Master or any of the State Agriculture Committee members know if you are interested in joining this committee.

Thank you everyone and to the entire Ag Committee for their commitment and help.

Sincerely,

Sherry Harriman