# AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**VERMONT GRANGERS WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

**Director: Jenny Nelson, PO Box 346, East Ryegate, VT 05042**

**Tel: 802-584-3296; Email: jnelson@fairpoint.net**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Grange is an organization with deep ties to agriculture. Agriculture is the basis of our ritual work, and our organization has long been dedicated to its promotion and preservation. The environment we live in and the proper conservation and cultivation of it are critical to our survival. The goal of this committee is to foster a deeper appreciation for agriculture and the environment within our Community Granges and aid them in raising awareness and developing policies at the local, state, and national level.

1. Master should appoint an active Agriculture & Environment committee to develop and promote Community Grange activities at Grange meetings and in the community.
2. This appointed Agriculture/Environment Committee shall develop a program that addresses one or more issues pertaining to agriculture that is also relevant to that Grange’s membership. This is a time of momentous change in agriculture in our state, so there are many possible subjects. From new environmental regulations and changes to land use taxation, to marketing new value-added products and recognizing global trade and local markets, there are plenty of new things for your Agriculture committees to talk about and inform your membership about.
3. Make financial donation(s) as directed by the interests of your Grange. Suggestions: Kelley Farm, Heifer Project International.
4. As a State Grange Agriculture Project, we would like to support schools who have school gardens and/or Farm to School efforts that are beginning or established projects. Things you can do as a Subordinate Grange:
	1. Invite a teacher or food service director to the Grange to describe their project and how the Grange can help.
	2. Offer to support their school garden project with funding to establish raised beds, for seeds, tools, manure, and/or watering equipment.
	3. Give a helping hand and visit as an experienced Grange gardener.
	4. Offer to bring in some homegrown veggies, berries, or cheese samples for a taste testing event for a class or the whole school.
	5. Support a Community Harvest Dinner to help the school celebrate their efforts.
5. There is an effort to expand Farm to School here in VT. We can do our part financially and legislatively. See website at: [www.vtfarmtoschool.org](http://www.vtfarmtoschool.org/) for ideas and resources to guide you.
6. All Agriculture/Environment Committee donations should be sent directly on or before June 15, 2024, to:

Jenny Nelson

PO Box 346

East Ryegate, VT 05042.

Checks should be made payable to: Vermont State Grange Agriculture/Environment

Please designate amounts for each project. You may also select other Agriculture related donations that appeal to your membership.

1. Keep the State Agriculture/ Environment director/committee informed of your programs, as you develop and promote Community Grange activities. Invite them to your annual agricultural program. Effective communication, on all levels of Grange work, is key to success.
2. Develop at least one resolution related to agriculture and the environment. Resolutions through Grange are a fantastic way for your membership to express their concerns about agricultural issues in a unified voice to our legislators at the state and national level, as they look to make changes to agricultural policy. Check the GMG articles from the Ag Director for ideas and information.
3. As the COVID19 pandemic begins to subside, we recognize the aftereffects on our farms and small businesses, as well as some of our more vulnerable citizens. VT dairy farmers have experienced a crisis following the nearly 5-year downturn in the price they receive at the farmgate. We know that people want to continue to help - donating milk helps dairy farmers by securing a market for their milk and families who are struggling with food insecurity. There are opportunities still available for Granges to donate milk to your area food shelves. Remember that milk is one of the most sought-after food items when our struggling neighbors go to find food. Perhaps your Grange can donate and earmark it for milk. Storage is sometimes an issue. If you are feeling generous, consider donating a refrigerator to your local food shelf. What a great community service that would be for farmers and consumers alike.

**Resources for Programs and Policy**

* VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets’ Agriview found at www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov 802-828-5667
	+ If you are a farmer or producer, you can get a free subscription in your mailbox monthly by calling 802-828-1619 or e-mail AGR.Agriview@vermont.gov
* VT Agriculture Community Calendar at http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month
* For more information on Vermont’s Farm to School, go to the website: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/vermont\_farm\_to\_school\_program.
* **Find clever ideas at your local County Fairs this year and please participate in the VT State Grange Fall Festival**.
	+ Veggies and fruit, baked or canned goods, displays.
	+ Check out the premium list.
	+ See Fall Festival pages in this program book for more information.
	+ Join the fun and show off your produce! There are cash prizes!
* Skimmed Milk is full of current, ever-changing dairy information. Find it at aginfo@farmjournal.com

## **AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL SUBORDINATE GRANGE 2023-2024 REPORT**

Grange Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you make an Agriculture/Environmental Report? **Yes/No**

Did you donate to a Farm to School Program? **Yes/No**

Did you have an Agriculture/Environment Program? **Yes/No**

Important: Describe your Program. Please list date, topic, speaker, activities, music, and resources used to share ideas other Chairs might want to use in their Granges. Use a separate page to document this, if necessary.

Did you report on Agricultural or Environmental issues/topics at 6 meetings? **Yes/No**

 Date of meeting List Topics

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Did you write and submit a Resolution on Agriculture/Environment topic? **Yes/No**

Attach copy**.**

Did you do a Community Service project that was Agriculture/Environment related, such as working in a community garden, school garden, offering fresh veggies to the local food shelf, building container gardens, having a speaker for a program and inviting the public? **Yes/No**

Important: Describe your Ag/Environment related Community Service project. Please share activities, time spent, and resources used in order that others may have the information to use in their Granges.

**You need to provide evidence to earn your points**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGE SEAL REQUIREMENT** | PointsEarned |
| 30pts | Submit Completed Agriculture/Environmental Report |  |
| 20pts | Present an Agriculture/Environment Program |  |
| 20pts | Donation of time, money, project or produce to a Farm to School Program |  |
| 10pts | Volunteer at Vermont Farm Show for 4 hour shift (each person) |  |
| 20pts | Submit a Resolution on Agriculture/Environment topic |  |
| 10pts | Invite Pomona Agriculture/Environment Chairman to a meeting |  |
| 10pts | Reported at Meeting under Committee Reports (minimum 6 meetings) |  |
| 20pts | Community Service Project Agriculture/Environment related.Must include donation of locally grown fruits and/or veggies |  |
|  **Donations:** |
| 10pts | Kelley Farm Amount |  |
| 10pts | Heifer Project International Amount |  |
| 10pts | Other Agriculture Fund Name: Amount |  |
| **Must total at least 80 points to receive a seal – Total your Points Here** |  |

## **AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL POMONA GRANGE 2023-2024 REPORT**

Pomona Grange Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Pomona Committee Chair’s serve on the Vermont State Grange Committee to help the State Director and are the communication link to subordinate/community Granges.***

How many Subordinate Granges are in your Pomona? \_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you contact the Ag Chair (or Master) of each of your subordinate Granges to offer to visit, talk about Ag program, offer assistance? Document date, Grange name, contact person, topics on separate piece of paper and attach to this form.

Did you attend Subordinate meetings in your Pomona when the Ag Chair did the program? Document visits below and give brief descriptions of the theme and activities.

Subordinate Grange Invite Attended Date Activity

A few sentences of what was reported at Pomona meetings. (Minimum of 4 meetings)

Date Topic

1

2

3

4

Did you have an Agriculture/Environment program for your Pomona. YES or NO

Please write a short paragraph outlining your topic and activities associated with it.

Did you submit at least one resolution on an Agriculture/Environment topic? YES or NO

Attach copy.

**You need to provide evidence to earn your points**

|  |
| --- |
| **POMONA GRANGE SEAL REQUIREMENT** |
| 30pts | Submit Completed Agriculture/Environmental Report |  |
| 20pts | Points for each Subordinate Visit |  |
| 20pts | Submit a Resolution at Pomona level on Agriculture/Environment topic  |  |
| 10pts | Reported at Pomona Meeting (minimum 4 meetings) |  |
| 20pts | Present an Agricultural/Environmental Program on a topic of interest |  |
| 10pts | Invite Vermont State Ag Director to your meeting |  |
| 20pts | Attend State Ag Committee meeting (in-person or ZOOM) |  |
|  **Donations** |
| 10pts | Kelley Farm Amount |  |
| 10pts | Heifer Project International Amount |  |
| 10pts | Other Agriculture Fund – Name: Amount |  |
| **Must total at least 80 points to receive a seal – Total your Points Here** |  |