



a quarter's worth

End of Summer is State Fair Time!

By Ann Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

It's August and the summer seems to be flying by! However, for many it's the very best part of summer because of the State Fairs! I know a few states have already had their fairs in July, and the county fairs have been extremely busy places. Fairs are a great way to get to know more about your county and state.

I was not a fairgoer in my youth, but I have become quite enamored by the Minnesota State Fair, which is the largest state fair in the country by daily admission standards. (We can argue with Texas about that.)

The Minnesota Fair occurs on the final 12 days of summer ending on Labor Day. It boasts the selection of Princess Kay of the Milky Way where the princess and her court have their heads carved in butter during the fair. These are fondly referred to as "butter heads."

Each year over a dozen new fair foods and beverages are highlighted, and this year is no different. Of course, there are the rides and the midway with all the games, and the food, and the contests, the quilts, the baked goods, the canned and pickled goods and the livestock. There is also the Giant Sing Along offering one of the country's biggest group chorales with attendee voted music selections. It's just one great big party. No wonder they call it the Great Minnesota Get Together.

I also decided that I need to check out some of our other Great State Fairs!



One of the 2016 Princess Kay of the Milky Way competitors poses with the bust of her head carved from butter at the Minnesota State Fair.

Texas boasts the second largest fair in the country. It features Big Tex, a giant cowboy sculpture that welcomes attendees to the fair. Everything is bigger in Texas, and the Texas Star Ferris Wheel towers 212 feet over the food stands and grandstand. The Big Tex Choice awards honor the very best in fried dining from fried Thanksgiving dinner to fried peaches and cream. The Texas State Fair proves everything is worth of a deep fryer. The Texas State Fair runs for 24 days and is the longest running fair in the country.

The Wisconsin State Fair has a 200-foot slide, a fair

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Gardening in the Extremes

By Ann Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

This has been quite the summer for extremes! Across the country, people are either experiencing severe drought or severe rain. That's going to make gardening (and farming) extremely difficult. For those that are suffering from drought, here are some helpful tips I gleaned from the University of Minnesota's Extension Yard and Garden news.

I wrote about watering and mulching in the last edition of *A Quarter's Worth*. With the extremes of heat and drought and possibly some water restrictions put in place by local ordinances, I have some additional info for you.

The best time to water plants is early in the morning. This allows the soil and plants to absorb more water. During the heat of the day, water evaporates rapidly. For large areas, drip irrigation is ideal because the water is directly at the surface of the soil. If you water by hand or use sprinklers, try to apply the water as close to the soil as possible again to avoid evaporation. If you are experiencing daytime temperatures over 90 degrees, and overnight temperatures above 70 degrees, you might need to water every day. Remember, mulch is your friend!

How much water is needed? If you are using a hose, a 10x10 foot garden space will need 8-9 gallons of water. You can use a 1-gallon milk carton or a 5-gallon bucket and time how long it takes to fill it with a hose. Multiply that by the number of gallons needed, and you'll know how long to

keep the hose running.

If you have water use restrictions, you are going to need to prioritize your watering. The temptation may be to over-water your vegetable garden when it is so dry, but some vegetable plants are hardier than others.

Vegetables that are flowering and fruiting need consistent watering. Vegetables that can be stored like potatoes and onions can be cut off from water at this point in the growing season if you plan to harvest them in the next couple of weeks. Vegetables such as tomatoes, squash, and melons have deeper roots that can pull moisture that is deeper in the soil and may not need watering every day. Cool season crops like lettuce (if you have any left), broccoli and turnips need frequent watering. Any vegetables grown in pots need to be watered every day. If your potted annuals are looking a bit glum, it is getting close to the end of their growing cycle, and it might be okay to concentrate your watering to your vegetables and perennials.

Remember to keep weeding! Weeds soak up water and nutrients, too!

Be sure to take care of yourself while you are out gardening. Remember to take breaks and drink plenty of water yourself! Know the signs of heat stress: headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, thirst and heavy sweating. Get help if you need it.

Once you have your plants safely watered, keep an eye out for the next issue of *Good Day!* magazine for tips on making pickles!

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favorite since 1973. It also offers a Crazy Grazin' Day with mini portions of classic fair foods at reduced prices. This fair is known for its original cream puffs and sells over 350,000 of these treats each year!

The Iowa State Fair is known for its iconic Butter Cow sculpture and 82 "food-on-a-stick" options. The Thrill Zone offers heart-pumping rides. The Iowa State Fair has inspired books, 3 movies, and a Broadway musical.

The New York State Fair holds a Taste NY Food Truck Competition with over 40 food trucks and compete for the most "New York" items. This is the oldest state fair in the country, dating back to 1841.

The Ohio State Fair includes some unique exhibits including a lumberjack show, camel rides and a butterfly garden. Attendees can watch the Human Cannonball Crusaders fly 40 feet in the air.

The North Carolina State Fair was organized by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and focuses on their local farms. In addition to exhibits, carnival rides and livestock competitions, there is an Antique Farm machinery exhibit.

The Florida State Fair is home to the Midway Sky Eye, allegedly the tallest traveling Ferris Wheel. It also features other midway rides, a model train show, an all-breed dog show and a circus. This fair has been held in February for over 115 years.

The California State Fair lasts for 17 days, showing off California's in-

dustry and agriculture. There's plenty of diverse foods and entertainment. This fair is held in July. In addition to the California State Fair, I need to mention the San Diego County Fair that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year making it one of the largest county fairs on the country.

Visitors to the Indiana State Fair can attend a hot air balloon race, high school marching band contest and enjoy plenty of food and carnival rides.

The Washington State Fair is also one of the largest fairs in the country. This year they have a new dinosaur exhibit and a livestock show of miniature animals, in addition to all of the food and carnival rides.

The Colorado State Fair features a rodeo, motorsports entertainment and a horse show.

The Delaware State Fair hosts The Giraffe Menagerie Petting Zoo in addition to helicopter rides, a circus, live entertainment, and live harness racing.

The Fryeburg Fair held in Maine is one of the best agricultural fairs in the county boasting the largest steer and oxen show in the country. It also holds a Skillet and Anvil Throw and

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pig scrambles.

The North Carolina State Fair includes a horse show, livestock show and a Krispy Kreme Cheeseburger.

The Eastern States Exposition is known as "New England's great state fair held in Springfield Massachusetts. It is one of the top five biggest state fairs in the country. There attendees will find its Wine and Cheese Barn, a celebrative avenue of states (honoring all six New England states) and their signature dessert: the Big E Cream Puff.

These are just a few of the fairs I explore through the convenience of Google search. I recommend that you explore the fairs in your own state, and then compare them via the internet with others. I need to go find myself a Pronto Pup!



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Beekeeping and the Grange

By Scott Nicholson
Montana State Grange Lecturer

So, you are thinking about trying your hand at Beekeeping? I know you are thinking that this is the wrong time of year, but it's not, and here is why.

Entering beekeeping takes study, planning, time, and money to acquire the necessities to be successful in getting started. Mid to late summer and fall is a great time to purchase things like hives, supers, and frames as we are nearing the end of honey season and many vendors have some good clearance sales. Now is also a good time to start studying the numerous books, publications, and, don't forget, YouTube videos.

Resources: Many areas have bee clubs which can be an excellent way to start gaining valuable knowledge and most clubs have a winter or spring beginner's class. If they don't, how about having your Grange help sponsor one?

As I mentioned, there are a plethora of very informative YouTube influencers out there who produce and post timely and educational content. I recommend sampling several presenters to find the ones whose base of operation matches the climate in your area.

Many colleges and universities offer Master Beekeeping Classes. I have not done a master class yet because we have been advised that the coursework is much more meaningful if you have some practical experience before you take the course.

I started keeping bees in the mid '70s (Remember the great sugar shortage?) and have dabbled from time to time up to the early 90's when it became almost impossible to keep hives going on a small scale. When we got back into beekeeping a couple of years



ago, I found that most of my previous knowledge was very out of date and/or not applicable to beekeeping in today's environment and methodology.

I hope some of the other Beekeeping Grangers will chime in with helpful advice for those of you that are thinking of giving this interesting, challenging, rewarding, and essential hobby a try.

Again, I would like to encourage you and your Grange to reach out to your local bee clubs to partner with in both educational and membership growth potential.



MVP (Most Valuable Patron)

Patrons of **Gilford Grange #6** and **Flora Grange #17** of Illinois sent in 17 extra quilt blocks In addition to their contest entries! These blocks will be valuable to those that work to assemble quilts or other items to be auctioned off at our National Session Showcase. Thank you!!

Deaf Awareness Grant Initiative

By Dave Roberts
Connecticut State Grange Lecturer

As Lecturers, we are always searching for new opportunities to engage our community Grange members.

Recently, the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Department was awarded a \$1,000 deaf awareness grant from the Grange Foundation to collaborate with the American School for the Deaf, the oldest school of its kind serving Pre-K to Grade 12 since 1817.

Any State Grange or Community Grange is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 grant each year (maximum of two are awarded per year). Currently, Judy Doyle of River-ton Grange and Carol Innes of Granby Grange are working with Connecticut State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts on this deaf awareness initiative.

There have been three planning meetings with leaders at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) in West Hartford, Connecticut, and we are tentatively planning a public festival-style event on Sunday, October 29, from 11 AM to 3 PM.



Connecticut Lions and the United Nations Association of Connecticut have also expressed an interest in partnering with both ASD and CT State Grange on this public event. Watch for updated details in the near future!



Q4 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for *A Quarter's Worth*, Third Quarter edition is November 1st. Send articles, ideas, tips, shout-outs and other content to National Lecturer Ann Bercher at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or contact her by phone at (612) 501-1231



2023

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