

Md. Grange

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➤Urge Farm Credit System and Farmers Home Administration to offer reduced interest loans to bonafide new entry farmers.

Safety Report — Harold Stevens, Chairman

➤Oppose using hazardous waste sites on prime agriculture land.

➤Urge Grange members to cooperate in crime prevention programs.

➤Urge machinery manufacturers to standardize an engine shut-off control on all diesel powered equipment.

Health and Education — Betsy Galbreath, Chairwoman

➤Urge at least one dairy product be served at Grange functions.

➤Milk be packaged in container for convenient use.

➤Grange oppose use of money for past presidents moving their offices continually.

➤Urge Vo-Ag program remain under Dept. of Education rather than be transferred to Dept. of Labor.

➤Urge that current non-retirement users of present Social

Security funds be eliminated so system will return to its original intent.

➤Oppose use of yogurt to replace milk and urge Sec. of Agriculture Block to maintain school lunches meet one-third of a child's daily nutritional needs.

➤Delegates approved a dues increase to the state grange.

The Maryland Grangers honored the young and the old during their annual session. During the annual youth session Roger Troxell, Thurmont Grange, was cited for his activities in the youth program during the past year and his devotion to the Grange. Troxell has been serving on the State Youth Team the past two years. He was Steward in the National Youth Officer Corp at the 113th National Grange Session in Lancaster in 1979.

The Grange awarded three scholarships to recent high school graduates planning careers in agriculture. The recipients are Barry Burch and Susan Flanigan of Catoctin High School and Ailee Harris of Frederick High School.

For their more than 60 years of active service to the Grange, Lena and Austin Renn received the Service to Maryland Grange Award. The Renns are members of Ballenger Grange.

State Grange Deputy Bruce Crum installed several new officers. The new officers included: Overseer, Maurice Wiles — Glade Valley; Lecturer, Nancy Wolfe — Brandywine; Steward, Thomas Galbreath — Dublin; Asst. Steward, Alton Hoopengardner — Hancock; Lady Asst. Steward, Alice Archer — Emmorton; Chaplain, Lavina McGolerick — New Market; Treasurer, Charles Peddicord — Patapsco; Secretary, Peggy Royer — Thurmont; Gatekeeper, J. Adam Plummer — Emorton; Ceres, Mary Lee Dorn — Jarrettsville; Flora, Patty

Myers — Thurmont; Pomona, Stem — Medford; J. Adam Plummer — Middletown; Plummer; and Jesse Burall — Executive Committee, Lester New Market.

Winter machinery maintenance pays

NEWARK, Del. — Except for land, machinery represents the largest investment on farms today, with total investment costs often exceeding \$150 per acre.

"Farm machinery operating costs are skyrocketing, with fuel increases leading the way," says University of Delaware Extension agricultural engineer Tom Williams. He says a study at the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station shows operating costs more than doubled from 1977 to 1980.

"It now costs over \$200 a day to operate a 160-horsepower tractor, excluding labor," he reports. "It costs about 15 cents per horsepower per hour to rent a tractor, or \$15 an hour for 100 horsepower." Replacement costs are also astronomical, with new combines selling for over \$100,000.

Proper care and a sound perspective maintenance program on farm machines can help reduce operating costs and prolong the life of your equipment.

Study operator's manuals regularly for suggestions on preventive maintenance. It really pays off, says Williams.

Here are some tips from him on how to store your farm machinery for the winter.

Remove oil and grease from belts and rubber tires. Reduce tension on all belt drives and remove the load from the tires.

Retract all hydraulic cylinders to prevent rusting rods, which can ruin seals. Coat any exposed cylinder rods with grease or rust preventative.

Gasoline engines that won't be used for three months or more — such as lawn mowers — should be drained of all fuel in the carburetor as well as the gas tank. This prevents gum deposits from fouling the carburetor jets.

Diesel engines such as irrigation engines that can't be drained of fuel should be left with full tanks to prevent condensation and subsequent water in the fuel system. Next year, try to use all the old fuel before you add new fuel to the tanks.

Start and operate engines every six weeks for 15 minutes or more this winter, if it's practical to do so. This will evaporate accumulated moisture, reoil the cylinders and recharge the batteries. Batteries can freeze and crack if left uncharged in cold weather.

A machine shed can increase equipment life by 25 percent, says the engineer. It will also reduce repair costs by 25 percent. A sound investment.



C. Rodman Myers, right, is joined by Austin and Lena Renn, who were presented the Service to Maryland Grange Award. The Renns, members of Ballenger Grange, have been active in Grange for more than 60 years.

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