

# GRANGE

## Legislative Priorities

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In 2019  
New York State Grange advocates  
for....

### Agriculture

- We support the establishment of a dairy farmer's bill of rights by the Department of Agriculture and Markets that prohibits unfair trade practices which would impair a farmer's freedom to bargain collectively, with the ability to take action against violators.
- We advocate for a revision of the Federal Milk Marketing System that incorporates 21<sup>st</sup> century dairy farm business realities with processing technologies and domestic and international markets. We support a system that creates a stable price that covers all costs of production. We support funding to mitigate non-point source pollution through such programs as the Agricultural Environment Management Program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and the Federal Government.



### Federal Government

- We support continued funding of Social Security, without increasing the eligibility age, and the discontinuance of the use of funds for other purposes. We do not view Social Security and Medicare as entitlement programs. For many it is their sole source of income and/or medical insurance. It must be protected.



### Education

- We support funding and support for agricultural education, literacy, and FFA programs that encourage awareness of and equip students for careers in the agricultural industry.
- We support the elimination of any mandates imposed by any governmental body which does not properly fund them, thus relieving the burden on local municipalities and school districts.
- We support the reintroduction of a civics curriculum in our high schools to equip our students with the necessary knowledge and skills to be effective and

responsible voices in the civic dialogue necessary to maintain our Republic.

### Health

- We support comprehensive health care reform that would address the special needs of rural areas in relation to shortages of doctors, nurses, health care facilities, and access to prescription medicines at reasonable prices to the consumer. Attention must also be given to the adequate and safe treatment of minors within the health care system. Programs such as loan forgiveness, establishment of incentives, should be developed that will encourage health care professionals to practice in the State's rural areas.



### State Government

- We support the enforcement of NYS Vehicle and Traffic Laws. We encourage public education of distracted driving and driver awareness through utilization of the Governor's Traffic Safety Council, Driver Educations Programs and Public Service Announcements.

## TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- Supports changes in the Federal Milk Marketing System that result in a stable price that covers all costs of production.
- Supports Federal Immigration Reform especially as it relates to agriculture. Modifications to the H2A programs, as well as the establishment of H1B for skilled agricultural labor.
- Supports adequate funding and support for agricultural education and FFA programs and encourage awareness of careers in the agricultural industry.
- Supports elimination of all unfunded mandates at all levels of government.
- Supports safe and secure Social Security and Medicare programs.
- Supports transportation safety, including adequate infrastructure funds for maintenance and construction, as well as enforcement of Vehicle and Traffic Laws.
- Supports establishment of incentives, such as loan forgiveness, that would encourage health care professionals to practice in New York State.
- Supports training of public accommodation personnel in human trafficking awareness.
- Supports efforts to address the opioid crisis through education and legislation.

- Supports stripping pension benefits from public officials convicted of a felony.
- Supports the expansion of rural broadband to insure equal educational opportunities, access to healthcare networks, markets, and technology necessary for farmers to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### WHAT IS THE GRANGE?

The Grange is an organization that welcomes all, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or political affiliation. The fraternal aspects foster a deep appreciation of American agriculture and a spirit of community involvement. The Grange has programs of interest to everyone.

Local, State, and National issues of concern to communities receive attention by Grange members and Grange leaders. Legislators are made aware of the Grange's support or opposition to issues. The Grange is a forceful and effective voice for agriculture and rural values. The Grange seeks to improve the quality of life in our communities.

*“The Grange provides the opportunity, the people provide the leadership, the community reaps the benefits.”*

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### The Grange Vision

An Initiator of Community Action  
A Facilitator of Leadership Development  
An Advocate for Families  
A Trusted Conveyor of Issues to Legislators

# STATE GRANGE 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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