

GRANGE

Legislative Priorities

In 2021
New York State Grange advocates
for....

Agriculture

- We support family-owned dairy farms. We support dairy producers receiving a fair market price for milk which includes regional fair market pricing, farmer-led milk production growth management plans, and repeal of unfair labor mandates.
- We support funding to mitigate nonpoint source pollution through such programs as the Agricultural Environment Management Program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and the Federal Government.
- We support tax incentives for telecommunication providers to install broadband internet service in rural areas not currently served.



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 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 meaningful legislative reform that includes an open budget process; open legislative sessions, voter approved pay raises for elected officials and term limits.

● PRIORITIES FOR 2021

- We support legislation that would enable dairy producers to receive a fair market price that would include regional fair market prices, farmer led milk production growth management plans and a smart dairy trade policy.
- We support meaningful reform to existing farm labor laws to improve conditions for farmers who hire employees.
- We support any mandate issued be fully funded by the government body who has issued the mandate.
- We encourage our federal government to include in any funding bill monies that will maintain and repair our aging infrastructure especially in rural areas.
- We support tax incentives for telecommunication providers to install broadband internet service in rural areas not currently served.
- We support continued essential services by the USPS to meet the needs of rural America.
- We support meaningful immigration reform to simplify the process for farm employers to hire migrant labor.
- We support all efforts that will ensure continued funding of Social Security and Medicare, and that monies in the funds not be used for any other purpose.

- We support efforts to relieve the high cost of prescription drugs through negotiated prices, capping the amount of out-of-pocket costs for Medicare enrollees and penalizing drug companies who raise prices more than the rate of inflation.
- We support regulation reforms that would promote the use of telemedicine and telehealth services for rural areas.

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.”

The Grange Vision

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

STATE GRANGE 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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