

**For 2024- 2026 CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE –
FAMILY ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT**

State Committee:

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Duties of Pomona Chairman:

1. Make a short report at each regular meeting.
2. Promote all contests within your Pomona.
3. Assist the State Committee when requested.
4. Encourage your Grange to contribute monetarily to the State CWA projects.
5. Send annual report to State Director by September 15th.

Duties of Subordinate Chairman:

1. Report at each regular meeting.
2. Explain and promote all contests and projects.
3. Put on **one** program (or part of a program) for the lecturer.
4. Encourage your Grange to contribute monetarily to the State CWA projects.
5. Send a copy of the annual report to your Pomona Chairman **AND** State Director by Sept. 1st.

CONTESTS

NORTH EAST NEEDLEWORK CONTESTS

Open to the public but must be submitted through a Grange. No product requirements.

There are 12 classes for competition –A: Afghans, B: doilies, C: embroidery, D: 3-piece baby set, E: plastic canvas, F: counted cross stitch, G: adult garment, H: latch hook, I: quilted wall hanging, J: stuffed toy, K: baby blanket, L: child or adult garment sewn and M: Miscellaneous.

ALL items submitted for judging must be clean and odor free **and made in the current year.**

Judging at **State** level only. Subordinate and Pomona judging are not required.

All first-place winners will compete at the North East finals at the Big E for Classes A-M

Brochures and entry forms for the North East Needlework Contest may be obtained from the State CFA Director or Committee, Pomona or Subordinate Chairman or can be downloaded from the State Grange website at: <http://www.ctstategrange.org/downloads.asp?Category=Family%20Activities>

Prizes for the needlework contest at the State level will be:

1st Place-\$20.00, 2nd Place- \$15.00, 3rd Place - \$10.00. Best of Show - \$30

Prizes for the Craft and Baking Contests at the State level will be:

1st Place - \$15.00, 2nd Place - \$10.00, 3rd - Place \$5.00

Judging decisions are final.

Every effort will be made to distribute the prize money within 30 days otherwise they will be given at State Session.

We will let you know once the August date is set for the Connecticut State Grange Family Festival. As in past years, we will be combining our contests with the Lecturer's contests. We will also make the location known that would like to sponsor a pancake breakfast once all the details have been set.

"Everything Gnome"

Judging will be at State level only.

There are 2 categories: Needlework and Other Medium. There will be Adult and Youth class in each category. This is open to non-Grange members as well. All entries will be returned.

Craft entries in these 2 categories **will not be returned (there are no exceptions)**. They are retained by the State Family Activities Committee to be distributed at their discretion.

Open to Grange members, children, grand-children of members and Junior Grange members. For the baking contest, please remember to put your name and Grange on the back of the paper plate or in a plastic bag with an entry form. Judging for the baking contest is held at the State level only.

NEW Class M category:

The description is "anything that is not covered in Class A – L." An example would be Hat, Scarf and Mittens for an Adult or Child. Judging is at the State level, winner will go on to North East Judging. **This item will be returned.**

Recycled Craft – 2024-2025 (1st Year)

Create a craft of your choosing. The only requirement is that you must make it with something you have recycled. A short paragraph telling us what you recycled it from must be included as it may not be obvious to the judges. **This item will be returned.**

Decorate and/or make a Picture Frame – 2025-2026 (2nd year)

Create your own designs on an existing picture frame or one you have made. Any material may be used and there are no other restrictions for this contest. **This item will be returned.**

Baking Contest - 2024 – 2025 (1st Year)

One Layer Cake

Cake:

- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt

Frosting:

- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening*
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 2 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- 3 – 4 tablespoons milk

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350° and grease and flour a 8” or 9” [round cake pan](#).
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, milk, sugar, vanilla extract and eggs until smooth. Slowly whisk in the flour and baking powder until fully incorporated and smooth.
3. Transfer to cake pan and bake for 25 – 30 minutes (an inserted toothpick should come out clean). Remove from oven and allow cake to cool for about 10 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack or cake plate. Let cake cool completely before frosting.
4. Frosting: beat shortening, cocoa powder and vanilla extract until light and fluffy. Add salt and powdered sugar in about 1/2 cup increments until fully incorporated. Add milk until desired consistency has been reached.

Substitutes allowed:

Milk may be regular or dairy free

Shortening or butter may be used in the frosting

Baking Contest - 2025 – 2026 **Blueberry Tea cake**

Ingredients:

- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs separated
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries
- Small amount of flour to cover blueberries
- Small amount of confectioner’s sugar

Instructions Preheat oven to 350° grease and flour an oblong baking pan

1. Lightly flour blueberries until they are covered, set aside
2. butter and sugar together until well blended
3. Beat egg yolks and add
4. Add flour alternately with the milk.
5. Beat egg whites. Fold them into the batter
6. Put half of the batter into the baking pan
7. Add the floured blueberries, then add the remaining batter on top.

Bake for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar while still warm and cut into 2 inch squares.

STATE PROJECTS

Monetary Donations

Connecticut Granger Trust Fund
Connecticut State Grange Scholarship Fund
Connecticut State Grange Foundation
The Hole in the Wall Gang

All monetary donations may be combined in one check and made out to the Connecticut State Grange and sent to the CT State Grange Secretary at 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094. Please be sure to designate the dollar amounts for your choices so Todd knows what you want to do.

ANIMAL SHELTERS

We continue to ask each Grange to assist a local animal shelter or rescue organization. Help with food, clean blankets and towels, or volunteer your time and money. Animal husbandry is a big part of who we are and the Grange must show their support.

FOOD BANKS/SOUP KITCHENS

With people still having food insecurities, we encourage donations to local Food Banks and Soup Kitchens. Your help is still needed as prices continue to soar. Please keep track of the time that you volunteer and amounts of food that your Grange has donated to include in your year-end report.

NEW ENGLAND GRANGE BUILDING COUNTRY STORE

Items are always needed and appreciated for sale during the Big E. ***All newly-made hand crafted items*** may be sold in the building. All items may be given to any member of the State CFA.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

NEEDLEWORK CONTEST: The Juniors will use the same contest as the adults but will be judged separately.

BAKING CONTEST: The Juniors will use the same recipe as the adults but will be judged separately.

CRAFT CONTEST: The Juniors will use the same contest as the adults but will be judged separately

ALL Junior entries for all contests are at State level only.

All entries must be clean and odor free.

Prizes will be -1st Place - \$10.00, 2nd Place - \$5.00, 3rd Place - \$3.00

REPORT FORMS

A report form is given to all Subordinate and Pomona Chairmen to detail their activities for the year. An award will be given to those Granges achieving the goals for the year. **New forms are sent out to all chairman** to be turned in September 1st of each year.

The State Family Activities Committee thanks you in advance for participating in the projects we have outlined. We look forward to reading your year-end reports and the good work you and your Granges have done. As always, all that you do for Family Activities counts toward your Community Service report.