

The North East Youth Conference was held from July 10 - 12 at Union College in Schenectady. Special Guests for the weekend were Charlene Espenshade, National Youth Director; Ann Kurburski, National Junior Director; Beth Merrill, National Grange Lady Assistant Steward and Master of the New Hampshire State Grange; Pete Pompper, National Grange Executive Committee Member and Master of the New Jersey State Grange; Oliver Orton, Master of the New York State Grange; and Steve Coye, Overseer of the New York State Grange. Highlights of the weekend included a tour of the Union College Campus, workshops given by the National Junior and Youth Directors as well as Pete Pompper, and Water Olympics at the College Pool. The Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song Contests were held, and New York won many awards:

Public Speaking:

Prepared Speeches:

Age 13 - 19: 1st Place - Robert Masti (Steuben County)

Age 20 - 29: 2nd Place - Jo Barringer (Genesee County)

Age 30+: 1st Place - Julia Masti (Steuben County)

Elevator Speech: 2nd Place - Heidi Henderson (Onondaga County)

Impromptu Speech: Age 30+: 2nd Place - Julia Masti (Steuben County)

Sign-A-Song: 2nd Place - Jo Barringer (Genesee County)

We also had about 7 Junior Grangers from Steuben and Genesee Counties participating in the contests as well.

The New York State Grange Youth Drill Team participated in the Drill Competition, and, after 6 years of tough competition, we finally one **FIRST PLACE!!!** It is definitely gratifying that all our hard work and perseverance finally paid off! We look forward to attending next year's NEYC in Massachusetts.