

Dear State Directors, Chairman and Members of all Granges.

As Craft Manager at the New England Grange Building, I can't thank you all enough for your generosity. I can tell you that we had a fantastic year. It's been a while since we have let you know what are good sellers and what are not. What I would like to do is to suggest certain items that we just either didn't have enough of or too much of.

We had many requests for larger afghans. We have many lap size and smaller afghans. While we do sell some of them, there were too few large ones. I'm talking about 50" X 65" or so. People also wanted them for the back of the couch or Chair throws. Perhaps instead of making several of the smaller afghans, you would consider 1 larger one? Or making the lap sizes a bit larger?

Dishcloths for washing dishes. We have a lot of them but what we really need to do is try to have the all the same size. It's a hard choice between selling them for what they are worth as oppose to what we can sell them for. We know that cotton yarn is expensive as is your time. We would like to suggest that if you are making them to make them 8 X 8 so that we can eventually get it down to **one price**. That size should be able to include the many patterns that you are making. We believe that they would sell much better that way so we don't have to pack them up at the end of the fair. The larger ones just are not selling.

Stuffed animals were a tremendous hit this year and we had a table full at the start of the fair and within the first weekend most of them were sold. We also had very few mittens to start and they sold out quickly as well. Baby mittens (without thumbs) and Baby Sets were in quite a demand and there were only a few sets of those. So maybe you would consider making a set. Other items needed are chef hats, shawls, dish towels, scrubbies made out of the rough netting, Christmas ornaments, mittens, fingerless gloves, sets of place mats, potato sacks, grain bags. There were many requests for quilted bowl cozy (for warming bowls in the microwave) which this year we didn't get any in. We had some children's aprons that sold out in a couple of days. We suggested that they pair it with a children's cooking book for a gift and people really loved that idea.

What has not been selling well: every few years, times change what was once popular. Jewelry, pillow cases, wall hangings,

Remember if everyone just picks one or two things to make, imagine how many items we would have! Thank you for listening and have a great year in your Crafts.

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Director of CT Family Activities