

# **Cultivating Our Community**



**The 58th Annual  
Home Products Dinner  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

# The History Behind the Grant County Home Products Dinner

During the 1941 Kansas Legislative Session in the state capitol of Topeka, Representative Will Christian from rural Grant County had been bragging that he could prepare an entire dinner using only food grown and produced in Grant County. By the 1940's commercial irrigation was widespread in Southwest Kansas, making it possible for Representative Christian to make this claim.

During the Fall of 1941, Representative Christian hosted a dinner in Grant County for twelve of his fellow legislators and the Lieutenant Governor. Representative Christian's wife, Nora, prepared this home products dinner in their ranch home in rural Grant County, and served the party in their dining room.

The dinner became an annual event for the Christian's until Representative Christian's retirement from the Kansas Legislature. In 1962, the Grant County Chamber and several local citizens revived the dinner, naming it the Grant County Home Products Dinner.

The Dinner was still a showcase of locally grown products, but it evolved into a dinner to which the public and elected politicians were invited. In September 1963 the first "modern" Dinner was served. Today the dinner serves approximately 1,500 people every year. Over the course of the forty plus years the Dinner has been served, the menu has remained essentially unchanged.

Barbeque beef is the main course, served with scalloped potatoes, baked pinto beans, candied sweet squash, cherry tomatoes, sweet corn, whole wheat rolls, strawberry jam, watermelon, ice cream and milo doughnuts. Every year it takes approximately 800 pounds of beef to supply the main course, along with 4,000 cherry tomatoes, a pickup load or two of sweet corn, 2,000 milo doughnuts, 100 pounds of pinto beans, 400 pounds of potatoes, 1,800 whole wheat

rolls, 50 squash, 40 pounds of strawberries, and 50 watermelons.

The Grant County Chamber is still very involved with the Dinner, and has an eight-person Home Products Dinner committee that coordinates the dinner. The committee is a four-year commitment, allowing committee members to learn the process of putting together the Dinner in steps. By the time the food is served, the committee will have coordinated approximately 700 volunteers and 50 clubs to help with everything from picking and shucking sweet corn to setting up chairs and tables. The Home Products Dinner is served every year on the third Tuesday of September.

Planning for the Dinner begins the November of the preceding year. Over the course of eleven months, the committee picks entertainment for the Dinner, chooses a theme and complimenting artwork, coordinates with local farmers to grow the products needed for the dinner, and begins to solicit other donations such as plastic ware, cups, and coloring supplies for the young children in attendance.

Depending on the maturation of the sweet corn crop, the first work day for the committee and the community volunteers is corn day, usually during July or August. On that day, the sweet corn is picked from the field, shucked, cut off the cob, cooked, and put in the freezer for storage until the Dinner in September.

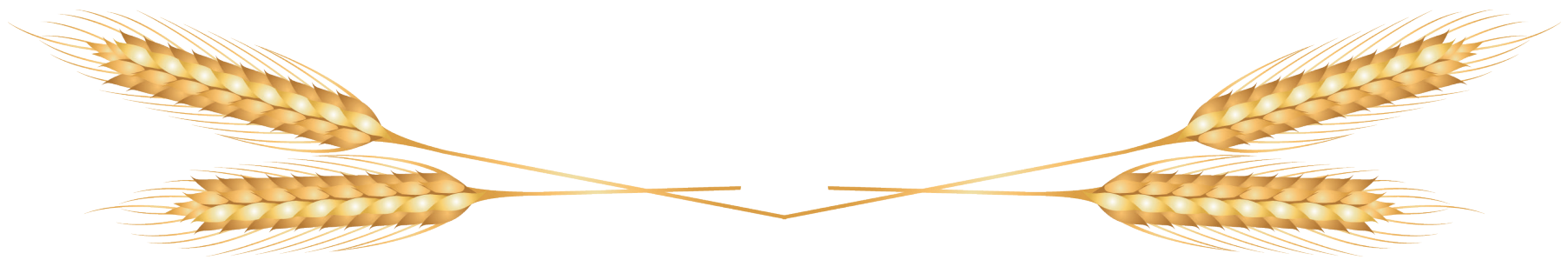
Over the following two months the committee coordinates the gathering of potatoes during harvest, as well as pinto beans, and the collection of wheat flour for the rolls and milo flour for the doughnuts from local farmers. During the week before the Dinner, the committee swings into full action, picking tomatoes, squash and watermelons. The committee then distributes the products to local clubs and schools to be prepared for the Dinner. Additionally, the committee

is responsible for the cooking of the barbeque beef the night before the dinner.

In addition to the food, the committee is responsible for setting up the local Civic Center for the dinner. With help from community groups and companies, tables and chairs for 1,500 people are set up, and the Civic Center is decorated. Following the Dinner, the committee coordinates the clean-up of the Civic Center and the kitchen and the return of decorative items.

A commemorative button featuring that year's artwork is the admittance ticket. The button can be purchased at several local businesses for \$10.00. The money raised supports scholarships for local Grant County youth who have graduated from high school and are attending college. Over the past fifteen years, over \$100,000.00 has been awarded to local high school seniors.

For more information about this event, contact the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at (620) 356-4700, or online at [www.ulysseschamber.com](http://www.ulysseschamber.com).

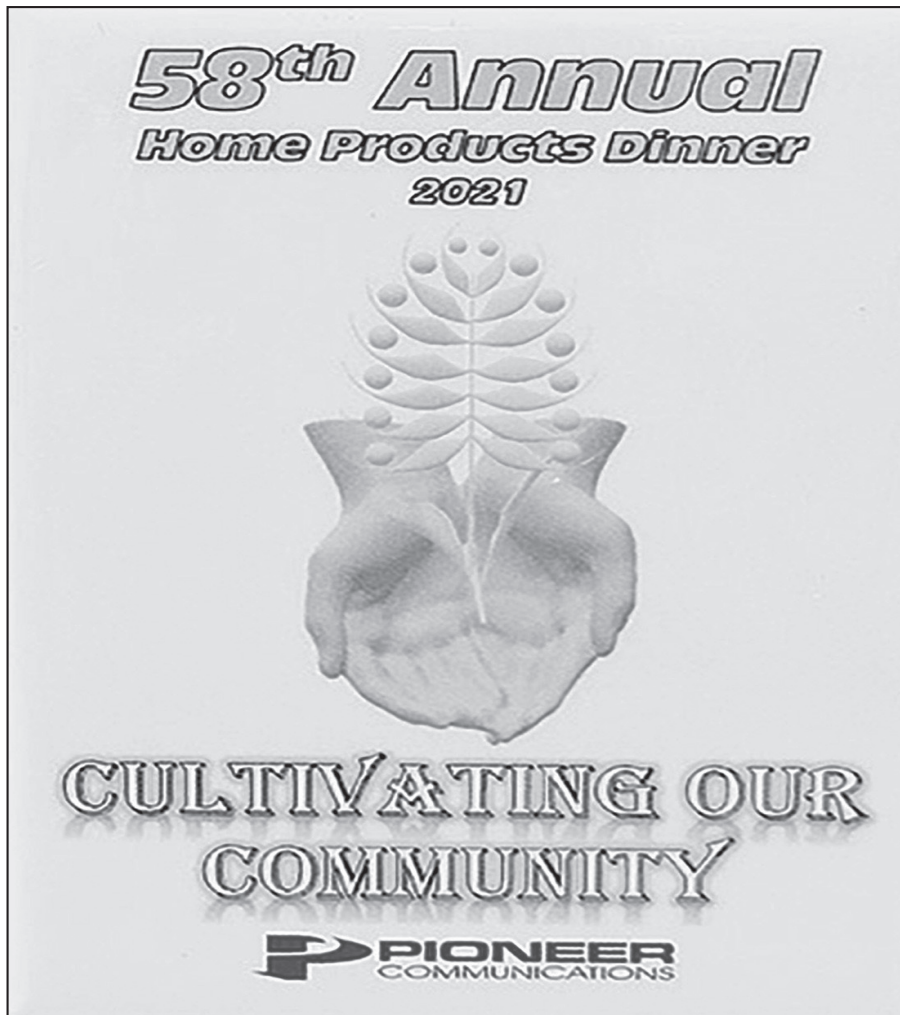




**BUTTON** — The 2021 Home Products Dinner Button (below) was designed by Maleah Walker.



**2021 HPD COMMITTEE** — This year's dinner is headed by these residents. From (l-r): Derick Hockett, Sarah Britton, Josh Sullivan, Natalie Flores, Jose Perez, KJ Freeman and Dustin Walker.



# The 2021 Home Products Dinner Donors

## 58th Annual Home Products Dinner 2021 Donors

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## The Home Products Dinner Committee

- Derik Hockett  
- Sarah Britton  
- Josh Sullivan  
- Natalie Flores  
- Jose Perez  
- KJ Freeman  
- Dustin Walker

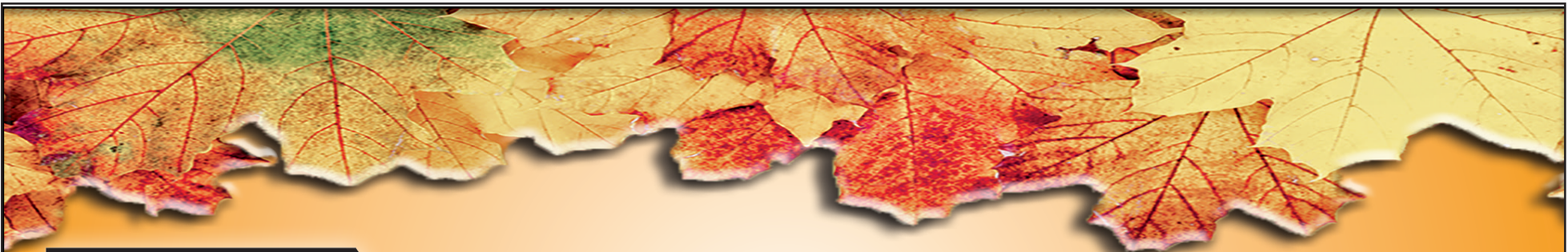


**The Ulysses News & Vendor**  
**218 N. Main St | Ulysses, KS | 620-356-1201 | ulynews@pld.com**

# 58th Home Products Dinner September 21st, 2021



**“It’s A Great Day At Lowe’s!”**



## The 58th Annual Home Products Dinner



Open  
Mon. - Sat.  
7:45am - 9pm  
Sun. 1pm-6pm  
502 S. Colorado  
Ulysses, KS

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021  
The Grant County Civic Center



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*We thank all of the farmers, volunteers, and businesses involved in making this year's Home Products Dinner a success.*

*Thank You For All You Do*

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**58th Annual  
Home Products Dinner**

**September 21st,  
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**58th Annual  
Home Products Dinner**  
September 21st, 2021  
7:00 P.M.  
  
*Ulysses, Kansas - a Town on the Move*

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**Grant County Chamber of Commerce  
& Tourism**  
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*58th ANNUAL*  
*HOME PRODUCTS DINNER*  
*SEPTEMBER 21st, 2021*



**USD 214**  
**111 S Baughman St,**  
**Ulysses, KS**  
**(620) 356-3655**



# 2021 Home Products Dinner Entertainment



## Comedian William Lee Martin

Comedian William Lee Martin is a storytelling comedian who takes audiences on a fulfilling journey. Whether he's proudly speaking of his youngest daughter's designation as "class-clown," or sharing the twists and turns of his recent vasectomy, Martin humbly reveals his true self for the sake of a good laugh. Don't be fooled by Martin's 6-foot-2-inch outward appearance, which includes his signature cowboy hat, boots and Texas drawl, as his on-stage persona is not an act – his middle-America storytelling is as genuine as it gets. Martin's vibrant routine reflects life as a husband, father and friend. No matter the topic, Martin's gentlemanly wit and charm shine brightly like his wide Texas smile.

Celebrate Community  
With Family & Friends

The 58th Annual  
Home Products Dinner  
Tuesday, September 21st, 2021  
The Grant County Civic Center

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HOME PRODUCTS DINNER 2021 — Volunteers help cut corn for the 2021 Home Products Dinner. Pictured: (l-r) Robyn McKown, Lakyn Freeman and Elizabeth Rodgers.



HOME PRODUCTS DINNER 2021 — Volunteers assist with cutting corn for the 2021 Home Products Dinner. Pictured: (l-r) Sheryl Deyoe, Monica Walker, Joyce Briggs and Robin Leonard.



HOME PRODUCTS DINNER 2021 — Volunteers help cut corn for the 2021 Home Products Dinner.



STRAWBERRY JAM—Employees of the Grant County Senior Center processed the strawberries and made the jam for the annual Home Products dinner on May 22, 2021.





*Join Us For  
The 58th Annual  
Home Products  
Dinner!*

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2729 W. Oklahoma Ave. | P.O. Box 987  
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September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
Grant County  
Civic Center  
7:00 p.m.



*Proud To Sponsor The  
58th Annual Home Products Dinner*

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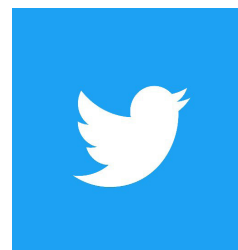
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