

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
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**AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY GROWTH DURING
LEGISLATIVE DAY AT STATE CAPITOL**

Charleston, W.Va. – On Wednesday, February 7th, the agricultural community of West Virginia will descend upon the State Capitol for the 2018 Agriculture and Conservation Day at the Legislature. Each year, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) hosts agricultural stakeholders at the Capitol to showcase innovations in the industry and programs around the state, as well as allow those stakeholders to voice their concerns to West Virginia’s two legislative bodies.

“People often forget there are two professions on our state flag. One is a coal miner and the other is a farmer,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “Agriculture touches the lives of every West Virginian every day.”

During Ag Day at the Legislature, the West Virginia Agricultural Advisory Board will meet to discuss progress on the development of an agriculture strategic plan for West Virginia. The board was relaunched by Governor Jim Justice, WVU Extension Services and Commissioner Leonhardt in July of 2017.

“Timber and agricultural producers bring \$5 billion to West Virginia every year. There is even more room for growth if we just start taking agriculture seriously. I hope the Legislature realizes that,” Leonhardt said.

The WVDA, along with the WV Maple Syrup Producers Association, will also host a maple pancake tasting and a ceremonial tree taping to celebrate West Virginia’s burgeoning maple industry and maple season.

Maple Syrup Pancake Tasting:

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Capitol Rotunda 2nd Floor.

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Ceremonial Tree Tapping:

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Capitol Grounds just outside the Governor's Office.

West Virginia Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting

Time: 12:15 p.m.

Location: Governor's Conference Room

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