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September 12, 2018

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## Agriculture Strategic Plan Meetings Set for October

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**Charleston W.Va.** -- A five-year strategic plan to move West Virginia's Agriculture industry forward is in the works. Now the public has another opportunity to offer their input into the process. The steering committee of the West Virginia Agriculture Advisory Board, made up of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), WV Farm Bureau, WV Conservation Agency, WVU Extension Service, WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design and West Virginia State University Extension Service, is holding 14 community meetings across the state during the month of October.

"This is a chance for West Virginians to have a say in the future of our agriculture economy," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "We are inviting agriculture business owners and stakeholders to participate in a hands-on process to identify specific strategies for how we can help move the industry forward and what direction we need to take."

More than 500 people completed a survey earlier this summer narrowing down the issues that most impact West Virginia agriculture. That is the stepping off point for the community meetings. Producers and agriculture stakeholders are urged to attend one of the 14 events and offer their input. The community meetings are being held in Charleston, New Martinsville, Ghent, Sutton, Martinsburg, Moorefield, Parkersburg, Philippi, Core, Lewisburg, Tridelphia, Wayne, Point Pleasant and Mt. Clare. In order to take part, participants must register ahead of time. To locate an event near you and to register, log on to: <https://bit.ly/2x8xKSq>.

For more information, contact [www.wvagadvisory.org](http://www.wvagadvisory.org) or Crescent Gallagher at 304-380-3922 or [cgallagher@wvda.us](mailto:cgallagher@wvda.us).

*The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.*

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