

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
KENT A. LEONHARDT



304-558-3550

agriculture.wv.gov



Facebook: West Virginia Department of Agriculture



Twitter: @WVDeptofAg

NEWS RELEASE
October 4, 2017

Contact: Crescent Gallagher
Communications Director
304/558-3708; 304/380-3922 (cell)
cgallagher@wvda.us

LOCAL FOOD STAKEHOLDERS INVITED TO ATTEND REGIONAL AGGREGATION MEETING

Charleston, WV - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is calling on local food stakeholders in the Summers County region to attend a crucial upcoming meeting. The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) and New River Gorge Development Authority (NRGDA) will be hosting a Regional Food Aggregation Stakeholder Meeting Tuesday, October 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Sandstone Welcome Center. The event is free and open to the public.

"As we have met with partners around the state, we have found that several of them are working towards the same goal. Aggregation is one of those goals that commonly comes up," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Our role is to bring these partners together to facilitate a conversation on how to work as a team."

The agenda will include a presentation from the Central Appalachian Food Corridor, as well as a discussion on next steps to develop regional readiness for aggregation. In order to participate, producers, consumers and commercial businesses are asked to take one of two surveys. These surveys will be used to help facilitate discussion as well as gather input. Surveys are also open to those who wish to participate, but cannot attend.

If you wish to RSVP or need more information, please email BWoodrum@rcbi.org. Lunch, sourced from local producers, will be provided.

Producer survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmdNN0eFys8CLiXZoryMZguZiuLBhKkUki3b6_ZwFVgLDXXg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Consumer/commercial business survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchMAweW_rUCNeoS6q6GpAP3EUe64SbGeRfzpa0GmEDOYt9mq/viewform?usp=sf_link