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## **‘Preventive Controls For Human Food’ Course To Be Offered by WVDA, DHHR**

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**Charleston, WV** - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) will jointly host a Preventive Controls for Human Food course from Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Days Inn & Suites in Flatwoods, WV. The course was developed by the Food Safety Preventive Control Alliance and is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Successfully completing this course is one way to meet the requirements to become a “preventive controls qualified individual”.

“The course is especially important for food manufacturers and produce growers who also conduct processing,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “For any producer to scale up operations, there are certain certificates or requirements mandated by the FDA under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The development of food safety culture in West Virginia will only result in expanded market opportunities and increased revenues for our producers.”

Classes will be taught by Dr. Robert Williams and Joell Eifert of Virginia Tech. The course is intended to ensure the safe manufacturing, processing, packing and holding of food products for human consumption. The Preventive Controls for Human Food regulation requires that certain activities must be completed by a “preventive controls qualified individual” who has “successfully completed training in the development and application of “risk-based preventive controls”.

“This course helps West Virginia producers and agriculture-based businesses become compliant under the FSMA” said Cassey Bowden, WVDA business development division director. “Along with growers, industry educators and regulators will be

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participating. The class will offer networking opportunities, as well as hands-on learning to explain the procedures, guidelines, regulations and best practices to make compliance and exemptions easy for implementation.”

The course costs \$225 and is limited to 35 participants. To register for the course, <https://goo.gl/hLtmzH> or call the West Virginia Department of Agriculture at (304) 558-2210 for an application. Participants must attend all three days to receive the course certificate.

For questions, please email [wvproduce@wvda.us](mailto:wvproduce@wvda.us) or contact Cindy Martel at (304) 558-2210.

*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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