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## WVDA Announces Second Annual Commissioner of Agriculture for a Day Contest

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**Charleston, WV** – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has announced the start of the second annual Commissioner of Agriculture for a Day competition. Students ages 9-18 are eligible to enter. Those selected will serve as honorary Commissioners of Agriculture during the State Fair of West Virginia. The contest will run from May 1<sup>st</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>.

“We have lost half our farmers in the last twenty years. At the same time, the average age of the farmer continues to increase,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “We hope to inspire the next generation of producers that our country desperately needs.”

To enter the contest, students can submit their presentations to the [West Virginia Department of Agriculture website](#) or to ([jensmith@wvda.us](mailto:jensmith@wvda.us)). The theme for this year’s contest is “The Future of Agriculture: Ideas for Feeding the World”. Acceptable forms for entry include: audio visual presentations such as photography or videos and written essays and poems, short stories and academic papers. All submissions must be received by July 18<sup>th</sup>.

“The hope is, if students see all the aspects of agriculture first hand, it may open up their eyes to careers they never knew existed,” stated Department of Education Agriculture, Science and Natural Resources Cluster Assistant Director Jason Hughes. “This is a great opportunity and I hope our students, especially FFA and 4-H members, take advantage of it.”

Those students who are chosen to serve as an Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture, will be given an encompassing tour of the State Fair of West Virginia, meet with Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, take part in events during the fair and meet various staff from every division of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. Additionally, any winning submissions will be showcased in the September edition of the *Market Bulletin*.

For more information or to submit an entry, contact Jennifer Smith [jensmith@wvda.us](mailto:jensmith@wvda.us) or

304-558-3708

*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..*

