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February 27, 2019

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## WVDA Offering Veteran Scholarships to Appalachian Grazing Conference

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**Charleston W.Va.** -- The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) announced education and training scholarships for veterans to attend the 2019 Appalachian Grazing Conference. The conference will be held March 7 – 9 at the Marriott Hotel at Waterfront Place in Morgantown, WV. Scholarships will cover the cost of all registration fees.

“It is our mission at the WVDA to inspire the next generation of farmers. Veterans are and must be a part of this effort. We hope these scholarships can spark someone’s interest in agriculture or may help someone attend that is looking to learn how to scale up their existing operations,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt.

The Appalachian Grazing Conference is held every two years and offers informative presentations and demonstrations to farmers with cattle, goat and sheep operations. Participants will hear from America's leading speakers on strategies designed to increase their profits. The conference itself is a sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Southwest Pennsylvania Project Grass, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design and West Virginia University Extension Service.

“Scheduled speakers have a wealth a knowledge to share with those who plan on attending. These topic experts will speak on issues such as how to create management systems or best practices for organic certification. We hope our veterans can take advantage of this opportunity,” Commissioner Leonhardt said.

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Those eligible for scholarships are veterans, active members of the military, Gold Star Family members and dependents of veterans. To apply, email contact information with a copy of your most recent DD-214 to [vetstoag@wvda.us](mailto:vetstoag@wvda.us) or contact by phone 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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