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WVDA Sponsoring Annual Honorary Commissioner for the Day Contest

Charleston W.Va. -- The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is sponsoring the third annual “Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture for the Day” contest. Students ages 9-18 are eligible to enter. Those selected will serve as an Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture during the State Fair of West Virginia, August 8 – 17.

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

The theme for this year’s contest is “The Future of Agriculture: How Technology Can Change the Industry.” Acceptable forms for entry include: audio/visual presentations, written essays, poems, short stories and academic papers. All submissions must be received by July 22.

Those students who are chosen to serve as Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture for the Day will sit in on meetings and events with the Commissioner, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the fair and will be featured in the September issue of the Market Bulletin.

To apply, go to www.agriculture.wv.gov and fill out an application. Submit the application along with your entry to: West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Attn. Commissioner for a Day, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305.

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For more information, contact Jennifer Smith at 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.

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