NEWS RELEASE May 17, 2016 Contact: Buddy Davidson Communications Officer 304/558-3708; 304/541-5932 (cell) bdavidson@wvda.us

## WVDA URGING BEEKEEPERS TO MONITOR HONEYBEE COLONIES FOR FOOD SUPPLY

**Charleston, W.Va. –** The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is advising beekeepers to monitor honeybee colonies for stored honey. Due to less than favorable weather conditions causing a delay in the honey flow, many colonies have exhausted their food supplies. Colonies light on honey should be fed until the honey flow returns.

"Until we have a good honey flow started, we want our beekeepers to watch their bees closely and feed them if needed to prevent any unnecessary colony losses," said Agriculture Commissioner Walt Helmick.

West Virginia State Apiarist Wade Stiltner also reminds beekeepers to remove surplus supers so bees will not store the artificial feed.

For questions on feeding honeybees, contact Wade Stiltner at wstiltner@wvda.us or 304-550-0589.