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## WVDA to Host Annual Beef for Father's Day Event

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**Charleston, WV** - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) announced it will be hosting the annual Beef for Fathers' Day Event 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at the West Virginia Capitol (Capitol Circle, Northside). The event will highlight the economic impact of the beef industry, the quality and type of beef raised in West Virginia, as well as what the future holds for cattle farmers. The event is free and open to the public.

"West Virginia beef is some of the best tasting in the nation," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "With USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue reopening the Chinese market, there is huge potential for growth. I know our cattle farmers are poised to take advantage of that opportunity."

On hand for this year's event will be local elected officials and the West Virginia Beef Council. The West Virginia Cattlemen's Association, which was recently reestablished, will also be in attendance.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to try to locally raised beef and support those businesses. Some may even find the perfect gift for Fathers' Day. It will be a great event, and we hope to see everyone out," Leonhardt said.

Cattle production is West Virginia's second largest agricultural commodity behind poultry. In 2016, the Mountain State ranked 39<sup>th</sup> for cattle production in the United States, grossing \$172 million.

Beef for the event will be sourced from Call's Meat Market in Hurricane, WV and the marinade (Zest Sauce) from Appalachian Mountain Specialty Foods in Spencer, WV.

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For more information, please contact Jonathan Hall at 304-558-2210 or [jhall@wvda.us](mailto:jhall@wvda.us).

*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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