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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**June 19, 2017**

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## **WVDA/WVU Extension Service to Host Series on Food Safety Modernization Act**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), in conjunction with the WVU Extension Service, will host a series of safety trainings for fruit and vegetable growers. The purpose is to help farmers and agribusiness owners navigate new regulations and procedures under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) while providing education on food safety.

"A safe, reliable food system is essential to our state's future. The department is here to help our producers navigate federal regulations," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "We hope people take advantage of these opportunities."

The first Producer Safety Alliance (PSA) approved training will be held on August 31st at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center in Beckley. A second session will be offered at the Eastern WV Community and Technical College on September 14th in Moorefield. The third session will be held on September 21st in Bridgeport. Each session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"With the new FSMA, we want to get our producers up to speed on all the safety regulations. Knowing these regulations, as well as being Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified, is vital to any producer that wants to be in a major retail store," said WVU Extension Specialist Dee Singh-Knights.

The courses will cover GAP and co-management information, FSMA produce safety rule requirements and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. The cost for the training is \$50 per person, which includes a PSA grower training manual, refreshments and a certificate of course attendance from Association of Food and Drug Officials upon completion of the course.

Space is limited and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. More details, including reservation information, can be found at: <http://epay.wvsto.com/WVU/WVUANREvents/Default.aspx>.

Funding support for the trainings provided by the FDA FSMA Produce Safety WV Cooperative Agreement.

For more information about these training sessions, please contact Dee Singh-Knights at [dosingh-knights@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:dosingh-knights@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-7606.

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