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West Virginia Department of Agriculture Releases 2018 State Fair Guide

Charleston WV – It only happens once a year. The State Fair of West Virginia takes place August 9 through August 18 in Fairlea and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) will be there for all 10 days of fun, food and festivities. The West Virginia Country Store will return to the Gus R. Douglas Annex Building (next to the West Virginia Building) and be open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. This year the store will feature more than 35 West Virginia vendors and their locally grown products. In addition, the store will host wine and cider tastings, honey extraction demos and a maple cotton candy machine run by the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association.

“Do not overlook this hidden gem,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “If you have missed previous fairs, take time out of your busy schedules, put aside the distractions, pack up the family and head to Lewisburg. Traverse the livestock barns, take part in a honeybee or maple demonstration and support a local farmer by visiting the WVDA Country Store.”



Join Us at the West Virginia Country Store

- *Aroma of the Andes Coffee
- *Appalachian Mountain Specialty
- *Bluestone Mountain Farm
- *Custard Stand Food Products
- *Family Roots Farm
- *Hawk Knob Hard Cider & Mead
- *In a Jam!
- *Kirkwood Winery
- *Ordinary Evelyn
- *Plain Jane's Country Cookin'
- *Rozy's Peppers
- *Sassy Gals Gourmet Treats
- *Spangler's Greenhouse
- *Stone Road Vineyard
- *Swilled Dog Hard Cider
- *Taste of Heaven Bakery & Cheese Shop
- *Up the Creek Mustard & Sauces
- *Appalachian Milk Soap
- *Blackwells Catering
- *Brookstone Soaps
- *Daniel Vineyards
- *Frostmore Farm
- *Heasley Homestead Maple
- *J.Q. Dickenson Salt Works
- *M & S Maple Farm
- *Out of This World Salsa
- *Rimfire Apiary
- *Rushlyn Confections, Inc.
- *Sister Sues Jams & Jellies
- *Stone House Lavender
- *Sweeteez, LLC
- *ThistleDew Farm, LLC
- *Uncle Bunk's, LLC
- *Zeb's Barky Bites

Agriculture Annex Activities:

- *Daily wine and hard cider tastings
- *Featured West Virginia Grown products
- *Honeybee hive demonstrations
- *Maple cotton candy sampling

Special Events:

- *Women in Agriculture Reception, Sunday, August 12, at 2 p.m.
- *Governor's Day, Thursday, August 16
- *Farm Heritage Award Luncheon, Thursday, August 16, Noon

Commissioner of Agriculture for the Day:

Students ages 9-18 submitted presentations on this year's theme, "The Future of Agriculture: Ideas for Feeding the World." The winners will serve as Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture for the Day. They'll meet with Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, take part in events during the fair, shadow WVDA staff and take a behind-the-scenes tour of the fairgrounds. They'll also be featured in the September issue of the Market Bulletin.

Produce Safety – Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA):

WVDA will staff an informational booth to discuss educational opportunities, compliance dates, as well as explain new components of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Staff will also be available to assist producers in determining if they qualify for exemptions. In addition, producers will be able to sign up for an On-Farm Readiness review, an on-site visit to determine areas of compliance and make suggestions for improvements.

Poultry Building:

The WVDA Poultry Building (located behind the rabbit hatch) will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Inside you'll find dozens of feathered friends on displays, from turkeys to roosters and the fan-favorite duck slide. With hands-on activities for the entire family, the focus is on the importance of the poultry industry to West Virginia's economy.

Barn Policies:

WVDA Animal Health staff are available, throughout the State Fair of West Virginia, to inspect all animals that enter the grounds for signs of contagious or communicable diseases. Staff will ensure proper testing and paperwork procedures are met as well. WVDA Animal Health will be available at their command post located at the livestock gate entrance.

Contact Information:

WVDA Fair Location – Gus R. Douglass Agriculture Annex

WVDA Related Fair Questions – Beth Southern 304-550-3620

Media Inquiries – Crescent Gallagher 304-380-3922

Animal Health – 304-558-2214

State Fair of West Virginia – 304-645-1090

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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