

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
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WINTER BLUES FARMERS' MARKETS ANNOUNCED

Charleston, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) announced the dates for the Winter Blues Farmers' Market North and South events. Winter Blues North will take place on Thursday, February 22nd from 4-8 p.m. at the Morgantown Event Center. Winter Blues South will take place on Sunday, March 4th from 12:30-5 p.m. at the Charleston Civic Center. The events are intended to highlight West Virginia food and agriculturally based artisan or crafted products.

"Innovations in agriculture are allowing farmers to extend the growing season. Climate is becoming less of a factor on what we can eat locally," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt.

Vendors from across the state will feature their best products, from just-bottled maple syrup to heirloom popcorn, farm-fresh eggs to goats' milk soap. Shoppers will also find fresh vegetables grown in greenhouses and high tunnels in the middle of winter. Craft items must use materials produced or grown in West Virginia.

"We hope people come out and support their local farmers. This is a great event that a lot of people look forward to each winter," Leonhardt said. "Our aim is to have even more vendors than previous years."

Last year's Winter Blues South featured 57 vendors and 4,000-plus shoppers for a total of \$46,000 in sales. All the money went straight to the producers. This year, organizers hope to feature even more West Virginia products.

Space is still available for producers at Winter Blues South. Booths are \$75 per vendor. For more information, contact Connie Tolley at 304-558-2210 or ctolley@wvda.us.

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