

**News Release**  
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**AGRITOURISM WORKSHOPS WILL REVEAL INDUSTRY TIPS AND  
TRENDS DURING 2015 SMALL FARM CONFERENCE**

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) will host four agritourism-related educational workshops in conjunction with the Small Farm Conference on Friday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015 at the Charleston Civic Center.

Chef Tim Urbanic and wife Melody, owners of Café Cimino Country Inn in Sutton, will share their experiences in developing partnerships that can benefit agritourism operations Friday at 1:30 p.m.

The afternoon workshop that day at 4:10 p.m. will be Dr. Nancy McGehee, head of Hospitality & Tourism at Virginia Tech. McGehee will share information on the growth of "Volunteer Tourism" and how it can assist agribusinesses in finding people to help on the farm at little or no cost.

Saturday workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. with Martha Glass of M&S Glass Consulting. This workshop will provide tips and ideas on how to grow and enhance your farm, earn more money and put dreams into action. Immediately following at 9:30 a.m. will be Jane Bostic, marketing specialist for heritage and agritourism entities at the West Virginia Division of Tourism. Bostic will share important trends in tourism and West Virginia that could affect and benefit agritourism farm attractions.

For more information on the agritourism workshops, contact Debra Gard, [dgard@wvda.us](mailto:dgard@wvda.us), 304-483-4027. Beyond agritourism, the Conference will feature 190 educational workshops on all aspects of production, finances and marketing. It also includes the popular Winter Blues Farmers Market, Feb. 26, 4:30-7:30 p.m., where farmers and ag businesses from around the state sell their food, goods and products. The Winter Blues Market also includes a "dine-around" event.

The Conference runs from Feb. 26-28 at the Charleston Civic Center. For registration information go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-11th-annual-wv-small-farm-conference-tickets-132-43-0445?ref=elinkfb>. For more information, contact Lisa Lagana at WVU Extension Service Small Farm Center at [llagana@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:llagana@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-2715.

Last year's conference was the tenth anniversary of the event. Daily attendance averaged 450, including 175 FFA members. Local farmers supplied \$30,000 worth of food to last year's conference and sold \$25,000 worth of food at the associated "Winter Blues Farmers' Market."

*The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs, as mandated by state law. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials in West Virginia. For more information, visit [www.wvagriculture.org](http://www.wvagriculture.org).*