

News Release

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GOOD PRACTICES MAKE GOOD FARMERS

Good handling practices training session to be offered at Small Farm Conference Feb. 25

Producers and growers hoping to get their Good Handling Practices/Good Agricultural Practices certification can take the first step at the 2015 West Virginia Small Farm Conference. During the one-day training program, participants will learn why GHP/GAP is so important and how it can benefit their bottom line.

More and more consumers are questioning where their food comes from and how it's produced. They want to make sure it's fresh and safe. The training overview will focus on forms of contamination, worker hygiene, soil and water use and other important practices.

While not required by the state of West Virginia, GHP/GAP training is required for an USDA audit. Several counties now require a GHP/GAP certificate to participate in programs like Farm to School.

The class takes place on February 25, 2015 during the West Virginia Small Farm Conference at the Charleston Civic Center. The cost is \$25 per person. It is free for WVDA employees. To sign up, call the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Marketing and Development Division at 304-558-2210 or email ctolley@wvda.us. Lunch will be provided.

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.