

**News Release
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**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE WALT HELMICK ANNOUNCES
ERIC EWING AS NEW PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION DIRECTOR**

West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick has announced that current Plant Industries Division Assistant Director Eric Ewing will be named Director November 1.

“Eric’s experience and knowledge of the forest industries and of the WVDA’s programs which work diligently to protect these industries make him the right person to lead this Division going forward,” said Commissioner Helmick.

Ewing started with the WVDA in 1995 after earning his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Biology from Concord and Marshall Universities, respectively. He began his duties with the WVDA as a nursery inspector, then supervisor of the Plant Pest Regulatory Programs Unit and was promoted to assistant director in 2011.

Ewing will assume director responsibilities after current Director Sherrie Hutchinson retires from the WVDA at the end of October with 35 years of service.

Ewing plans to continue the Division’s work to combat native and non-native plant pests and diseases through surveillance, regulatory and control programs.

“I have always really enjoyed my work with the WVDA; we are passionate about what we do and we do good work,” Ewing said. **WVDA Plant Industries
Division incoming director Eric
Ewing of Fayette County.**

Eric lives in Pax (Fayette County) with his wife Karen and son Dillon.



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.