

News Release
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NEW LIME PRODUCTION FACILITY IN MILL POINT TO ASSIST FARMERS THROUGHOUT THE GREENBRIER VALLEY, HELP IMPROVE STREAM HABITAT FOR TROUT

West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner Walt Helmick joined with representatives of Boxley Aggregates of West Virginia and regional economic development and elected officials today for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Boxley's new agricultural lime plant at Mill Point in Pocahontas County.

The lime will be primarily used by the farming industry to raise pH levels in the soil to improve the quality of pastureland and crop production. Lime produced at the plant is also being used by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to elevate the pH in the headwaters of streams and rivers located throughout the region-including the Williams, Cranberry, Gauley and Shavers Fork-to provide a more optimal environment for trout populations.

"The opening of this facility provides our farmers throughout this region with a source of high quality lime to assist them in improving their land and boosting future production," Commissioner Helmick said. "As we continue in our efforts to grow our agriculture base in West Virginia, facilities like this play a vital role. We are very pleased that this project has come to fruition."

"Boxley's Mill Point lime plant is a great example of how business and government can work together to address the unique needs of the region," said Ab Boxley, President. "Through access to high quality lime, the region can expand its agricultural opportunities as well as improve water quality of area streams."

Construction of the plant, that produces a minimum of 50 tons of lime per hour, was made possible by a \$500,000 loan provided to Boxley through the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation (GVEDC). The funds came from the West Virginia Department of Commerce.

"We're pleased to have partnered with the state on this project. We want to thank Commissioner Helmick and Senator Ron Miller for their support and assistance," GVEDC Executive Director Steve Weir said.

For more information contact Butch Antolini, Director of Communications, West Virginia Department of Agriculture.