Class Aims to Prepare Food Manufacturers for a Recall

Charleston W.Va. -- The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is sponsoring a two-day training session for food manufacturers on how to create plans in case of recalled food. The class will take place July 8-9 at the Bridgeport Conference Center. Each day will begin at 8 a.m.

“Worst case scenario for any food company is consumers becoming ill. Understanding how to handle a food recall can make or break a company, regardless of size,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “We hope folks take advantage of this opportunity.”

The course is for farmers and processors who manufacture, process, pack, hold or import human foods. It will include recall definitions, establishing a recall team, recall plan elements, communication, how to work with regulators and how to handle returned product. Participants will receive a recall plan template and learn how to develop their own plans.

“When developing a plan, there are a number of questions to be answered. How do we get this food off the market? How do we locate that food? How do we notify distributors,” Leonhardt said.

Instructors for the class are nationally recognized food safety experts Dr. Robert Williams, Associate Professor of Food Science and Technology at Virginia Tech and Joel Effert, Director of the Food Innovations Program at Virginia Tech.

Cost for the class is $30, and participants can register online here.

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For more information, contact Cindy Martel at cmartel@wvda.us or 304-541-9756.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.

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