Sky Edwards and Jason Tartt own one of the most successful agriculture businesses in southern West Virginia, McDowell County Farms. “We grow everything from A to Z, from arugula to zucchini,” says Edwards with a smile. Their pride shows through when they start talking about what they’ve accomplished on limited money and land in the past three years. “We started off with 15 acres of bottom land in McDowell County. Now we lease a 311-acre farm and we’re constantly upgrading it,” says Tartt.

In fact, you might say digging in the dirt is part of their DNA. Edwards grew up in North Carolina on a Cherokee Indian reservation. “I was expected to work in the garden from a very early age. That’s how we ate. Most reservations didn’t have grocery stores. I didn’t see my first loaf of store-bought bread until I was 14 years old.”

Tartt attended an old gardening encyclopedia. “My son and I would be out on the side of the road next to our field standing by my vehicle with that encyclopedia wide open,” says Tartt. “People would drive by and say, ‘What in the world are you doing?’”

The pair decided to go into business together. They purchased some abandoned plots of land and worked them from the ground up. They didn’t go into debt, instead buying only what they could afford at the time.

Sky Edwards and Jason Tartt, both military veterans and current operators of McDowell County Farms, are growing and selling fresh food in an area hard hit by the coal industry decline and lacking in supermarket options. They have started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program as well as a mentoring program where participants, ages 16-25, are taught how to grow, harvest and sell their produce. They also thank our new governor, Jim Justice, for wonderful job supporting and growing our agriculture businesses in southern West Virginia.

Growing Food & Raising Hope in McDowell County
Kent's Reflections, continued

Speaking of funding, as this column goes to press, the Legislature and our governor are still working through the budget process. For the sake of our great state, I hope they find common ground and have a resolution that will move our state forward and leave the status quo behind. Even though the department does not have a direct role in the budget process, we are committed to doing whatever we can to help our state’s budget woes.

The department and our entire staff is committed to looking for efficiencies and cost savings. Our goal is to use dollars, the tax payer’s dollars, more efficiently while continuing our mission to cultivate and grow our agriculture industries and the economy. We have consolidated services, weeded out excessive red tape and even cut our vehicle fleet by 15 percent. We are off to a good start, but we still have much to do when it comes to saving tax payer money.

To finish my reflections this month, let’s touch on International Maple Month and Mountain State Maple Day. The department kicked off Maple Month, by tapping a West Virginia maple tree with three of our home-grown producers. Thank you to Rich Flannigan, Paul Ronk and Mike Rechlin. They helped me tap my first tree and schooled me on the ins and outs of the trade.

Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt addressed the crowd at the auction from a new point of view. “It’s certainly a different perspective being up here in the auctioneer box. I’ve been out in the crowd before bidding on bulls but never up here. I’ve learned in the past two months of being in office the importance of the work WVU and Extension do for the state of West Virginia. We have a great reputation throughout the country when it comes to this bull test.”

The day’s top bull, from Branson Farms, was auctioned for $8,000. The total for all 69 bulls added up to $242,200.

Wardensville Bull Test Marks 50 Years

Performance. Efficiency. Value. Those three words remain the hallmark of the annual Wardensville Bull Test, held March 23. The event celebrated 50 years in existence along with the 100th anniversary of the donation of the Reymann Memorial Farm to West Virginia University.

The animals arrived at the Reymann Farm in early November. Dr. Kevin Shaffer, a WVU Livestock Specialist, explained the bulls are compared to one another and evaluated for traits like size, marbling and frame. “Those bulls that are superior, we put them up for sale. One-hundred and sixty-seven bulls started in the program this year, only 89 met our strict standards.

“Program was initiated in 1967, which was the start of the beef cattle performance era. A number of bull test programs started around that time but we’re one of the few that still remain,” stressed Shaffer.

“For a performance evaluation test to make it 50 years, that’s pretty significant.”

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West Virginia maple producers called it a sweet success! The 2017 Mountain State Maple Day, held March 18 and sponsored by the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), drew more than a thousand people visiting 11 different maple houses across West Virginia. From Daniels’ Maple in southern West Virginia to Family Roots Farm in the Northern Panhandle, Indian Maple Water Company in the Eastern Panhandle to Sweetcreek Sugarworks along the Ohio River, fans of maple got to see how sap flows from tap to table.

Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt visited Indian Water Maple Company in Mineral County. “What a great operation. The owners, Ed and Karen Hartman, are building a business model for others to follow. They’re taking what comes out of a tree and turning it into a value-added product that people can’t wait to purchase.” Britney Hervey-Ferris, one of the co-owners of Family Roots Farm in Brooke County, gave tours of their operation. Visitors got some hands-on practice drilling holes into a log and then learning how to put in a tap. The crowd moved inside to the new sugar shack to see how sap boils down to syrup. And everyone left with a free cone of maple syrup cotton candy.

“People were surprised to find out we don’t carry around 80 lb. galvanized buckets full of sap anymore,” said Hervey-Ferris. “We use tubing which is much more sanitary and efficient.”

Along with the maple houses, several communities held events showcasing maple products. Customers at the Brooke County Farmer’s Market feasted on pancakes with pure West Virginia maple syrup from Family Roots Farm just down the road. Hannah DeGarmo brought her entire family, including her three young children. “We just wanted to sit down for a family breakfast and it was delicious!”

Other venues to visit included the annual West Virginia Maple Syrup Festival in Pickens, sweet and savory maple treats at the Daily Perk Coffee House and Cafe in Follensbee and music and maple products for sale at the South Side Depot in Petersburg.

At Daniels Syrup in Greenbrier County, visitors showed up early. “I just saw a man walk out of here with $160 worth of maple products and the Daniels just opened their doors,” said Cindy Martel, WVDA Marketing Specialist.

“You don’t have to go to Vermont to buy pure maple products,” stressed Commissioner Leonhardt. “West Virginia producers are making maple syrup that stacks up to the best.”
The 74th West Virginia FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show featured 111 entries from FFA members across the state. By the end of the sale on March 13, bidders forked over $37,540 for some of the best pork and eggs in West Virginia.

The evening began with a reception at the Governor’s Mansion for FFA officers, elected officials, bidders and longtime supporters of the event to thank them for their commitment. Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt urged buyers to get their checkbooks ready.

“Please be very generous. The young men and women who have participated in the program throughout the year have done a tremendous job,” said Leonhardt. “Most people don’t realize this is an organization that’s growing throughout West Virginia. This is a major part of what can help revitalize the state of West Virginia.”

The show and sale took place in building 7 at the state Capitol complex. Bidders had the opportunity to take a close look at all the entries and talk to the FFA members before the auction got underway.

The 24 lb. Grand Champion Ham, raised by Hunter Aston of Cameron FFA, sold for $3,120 to the Kroger Company. The Grand Champion Bacon, weighed in at 8 lbs., was raised by Delaney Lucey of Cameron FFA and sold to Commissioner Leonhardt for $2,200.

The Grand Champion Eggs sold to Kroger for $1,000. They belonged to Alex Greathouse from Tyler Consolidated, a double winner. “I didn’t think I was going to get grand champion down here. I was just happy winning grand champion eggs at our county sale. Accomplishing something like this at the state sale is a great honor.”

The Reserve Champion Ham was raised by Tristan Dotson of Cameron and sold to Gunnoe Farms Sausage for $1,150. The Reserve Champion Bacon belonged to Tiersa Helvey of Greenbrier East and sold to Gunnoe for $2,000. Delaney Lucey of Cameron earned $1,200 for her Reserve Champion Eggs purchased by the Marshall County Buyers Group.

Ron Morrison and Greg Murphy of Ronald Morrison Auction Services donated their time to auction off the items.

“In the 74 years of the event, this was one of our top ten sales,” stressed state FFA Advisor Jason Hughes. “The product was of great quality. Every piece of meat sold was prime cut. That is highly unusual.”

The first state Ham, Bacon and Egg Show took place in 1941 at the Daniel Boone Hotel in Charleston. The Grand Champion Ham went for $23.63. The Grand Champion Bacon was purchased for $2.75 and the Grand Champion Eggs went for $2.25. The grand total that first year was $204.82. Over the past 74 years, the state sale went for $1,398,762 for FFA members to continue their education and compete or raise another animal.

WHAT’S COOKIN’

**Buckwheat Pancakes**

- Vegetable oil for coating the pan
- 1 cup buckwheat flour
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour (can substitute with buckwheat flour)
- 3 tablespoons sugar

Preheat skillet. Whisk together dry ingredients in a large bowl. Beat egg with a fork and stir it into the buttermilk. Add melted butter and the buckwheat/egg mixture to the dry ingredients. Whisk to get the right consistency for your batter. Stir only until everything is combined – do not overmix. A few lumps are fine.

Put a small amount (¼ tsp.) of vegetable oil on the pan or griddle and spread it around with a paper towel to coat. Ladle the batter onto the hot surface, about 4-5 inches wide (¼ cup). Reduce heat to medium-low. Allow the pancake to cook for 2-3 minutes on this first side. Watch for bubbles on the surface of the pancake. When air bubbles start to rise to the surface at the center of the pancake, flip the pancake. Cook for another 1-2 minutes or until nicely browned. Serve with warm WV maple syrup.

**WV Buttermilk Pancakes**

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 eggs

Preheat skillet. In a medium size bowl, combine all the dry ingredients and mix well. In a separate bowl, combine buttermilk and eggs and whisk till blended. Stir in the melted butter until fully mixed. Add wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and whisk until well blended but slightly lumpy. Let batter rest for 10 minutes before ladling by ¼ - ½ cups onto a hot griddle. Allow the pancake to cook for 2 minutes on this first side. Watch for bubbles on the surface of the pancake. When air bubbles start to rise to the surface at the center of the pancake, flip the pancake. Cook for another 1-2 minutes or until nicely browned. These are light and fluffy. Serve with warm WV maple syrup.

**Hoe cakes**

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup maple syrup, warmed

Preheat skillet. In a medium bowl, mix the dry ingredients. In a small bowl, combine the buttermilk, egg and oil. Stir the buttermilk mixture into the cornmeal mixture, just until well blended. The batter will be slightly lumpy.

Lightly oil a griddle or large skillet. Drop of water will dance across the surface when hot. Ladle ¼ cup of batter onto skillet. Allow the pancake to cook for 2-3 minutes on this first side. Watch for bubbles on the surface of the pancake.

When air bubbles start to rise to the surface at the center of the pancake, flip the pancake. Cook for another 1-2 minutes or until nicely browned. Add more buttermilk to the batter if the cake does not spread well and adjust the heat if necessary. Serve with warm WV maple syrup.

Interested in placing your free advertisement in The Market Bulletin? The quickest and most efficient way is to email the ad to marketbulletin@wvda.us. Name, address and price required.
Nominations Open for 2017 WVDA “Women in Agriculture”

Want to nominate a deserving woman for the 2017 WVDA Women in Agriculture recognition? Nominations are currently being accepted and those chosen will be honored at the 2017 State Fair of WV.

Deadline is June 1, 2017. For more information, please contact Cindy Shreve at 304-538-2397.

WV Cattlemen’s Association
Seeking Executive Secretary

The West Virginia Cattlemen’s Association is seeking an energetic and motivated individual to serve as Executive Secretary of the Association. Requirements include a B.S. degree in animal Science or related field and an excellent knowledge of agriculture and the cattle industry.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with qualifications and experience and subject to annual reviews.

Interested parties should contact Garrett Kuykendall P.O. Box 1035 Romney, WV 26757 Phone 304-822-5628

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April

Classified Announcements

To Submit an Ad:

Phone: 304-558-2225
Fax: 304-558-3131
Email: marketbulletin@wvdac.us
Mail: 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV 25305

**AD DEADLINES**

May 2017 . . .
Phone-Ins for the May issue must be received by 12 noon on Thursday, April 13.
Written ads for the May issue must be received by 1 p.m. on Friday, April 14.

June 2017 . . .
Phone-Ins for the June issue must be received by 12 noon on Monday, May 15.
Written ads for the June issue must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16.

To subscribe to The Market Bulletin, email marketbulletin@wvdac.us or phone 304-558-3708.

**Apiary Sales**

Honey Bees, pre-order/pre-pay 3 lb. package, Italian, $110; Russian, $115, Stephanie Bender, 222 Davis Ave., Elkina, 63214; 637-2353.
Italian Bees, pre-order 3 lb. package, $110 price includes 6% WV sales tax. Bill Bollton, 4772 Goosepen Rd., Roanoke, WV 26417; 458-5308.
Italian Bees, nuc box w/5-frames of bees & mated queen, $180, pre-order/pay now for mid-late April del., pick-up only, approx. 40 nucs for sale. David Miller, 8720 Elk River Rd., Precious, 25164; 578-4977.
Hive bodies, 10-frame deep, $20; 10-frame med. supers, $16, assembled but unpainted, pick-up or local del. David Miller, 8720 Elk River Rd., Precious, 25164; 578-4977.
Bee boxes, 16, screened bottom board, 9.5 lb hive body & 6.5 lb med. super, inner cover, cover whoo flashing, $75. James Wayne, 1425 Loudendale Lane, Charleston, 25314; 342-1273.

**Cattle Sales**

Reg. Black Angus yrlg. bulls, AI sires SAV 
Black Angus:  bulls, Excellent Objective blood, semen tested, good disp./breeder, $2,000, Cliff Crane, 143 Spiker Rd., Bruceton Mills, 62525; 379-4482. Black Angus 14-mo. bulls, Final Answer 2017 WV Beef Expo April 8 Jackson Mill, WV


Reg. Black Angus 13-mo., $1600.00, well-named bull, ready to breed, $1600.00. Stephen Dillely, 8147


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Reg. Black Angus 2-y., petition bull, great numbers, easy calving, tosses nice for growing calves, $3,800/ob. Rusty Harp, P.O. Box 169, Richwood, 26218; 924-3399.


Reg. Black Angus yrlg. bulls, 24985; 573-5991; BJHPVFarm@aol.com.

Hendrick, 4048 War Ridge Rd., Wayside, WV, 25358; 628-2185; 573-6040.

Reedy, 292 Gritt Rd., Buffalo, 25033; 937-2113.

She is deep, well muscled, good disp., handled mature to 39-40', TSM "Ace" Firecracker, has been haltered & leads, excel. disp., would make a great show bull, $5000. Stephanie Miller, P.O. Box 83, Clear Creek, 25044.

Reg. Black Angus yr/l, 2yr.-bull, 31", should mature to 39-40', TSM "Ace" Firecracker, has been haltered & leads, excel. disp., would make a great show bull, $5000. Stephanie Miller, P.O. Box 83, Clear Creek, 25044.

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Reg. Black Angus yrlg. bulls, SAV Pioneer & Pioneer Dam blood, calving easy, good milk disp., tested free or no carrier ancestry of AM, CA, NH, DD, M1, D2, OH, OS, $2,000/ob. Mil- ville, 1779 US 33, W, Norman, 25267; 354-7622.

Reg. polish angels, bred to All In, Re- sighen, Pleasant Run Rd., R.R. 1, Re- signen, 25021; 624-5065.


Reg. Holstein 9/16 bull, red & white, out of Awesome Red, great molting, has been perf. 85 on her first classification & is milking over 100 lbs., $800/or trade on young heifers. Douglas Stur- geon, 5381 Fees Branch Rd., Ashton, 25503; 674-3888.

Reg. Angus 1-yr. bulls, good disp. & low birth wt., $2,000/up. Rod Summers, 98 Mead- land Rd., Flemington, 26347; 742-6858; sum- bersunch@aol.com.

Black Angus 7-yr. throws great small calves, moderate to big frame, great disp. field ready, $1,500. Shirley Titus, 1069 Big Run Rd., Burton, 26262; 889-2650.

Reg. Black Angus yr/l, 2yr.- bulls, defect free, sired by Ten X, Trust, Anticipation & Triple T $2,500/up. Byron Tuckerwell, 837 Cattle Dr., Lewisburg, 24910; 661-3410; ittangus@front- iere.com.

Bred 12/15 heifer, sired by Frisky Whisky & dam out of Beer Money,验证确认 due date 11/9, weight 950#, sired by Mogul, she is deep, well muscled, good disp., handled daily, $2,500/o. Chris, 3035 Scott De- pot Rd., Scott Depot, 25560; 549-2630.

Angus bulls, ready for spring breeding, $1,500/up. Jim Westfall 1109 Tripod Rd., Spencer, 25276; 377-1247.

Cattle Wants

Angus steers, 15, weaned, 500-600 lbs. Jamestown, 24901; 629-2250.

Equipment Sales

No trucks, cars, vans, campers or other autos; backhoe (except 3-pt. hitch), dozers, grain equipment, low & no equipment; no parts.


451, sickle bar mower, $1,700. Vernon Adkins, 5011 Rl 52, Huntington, 25525; 573-2078.

JoeRobuck, sheds off a run flat a flat; JD hammer mill, runs on PTO, $400/e. Ray- mond Kline, 2300 Midland Trail, Victor, 26398; 640-3370.

NHI, 565, sq. bale, barn kept, field ready, fully tested & perf.; 1292, 1250 Bush Hog, 175, Glen- wood, 55220, 762-2246.

JDO, 6605 tractor, 4 WD open station, 95 hp PTO, JD, 740, loader, bucket, bale sae, pale, tractor, 6 hrs., 1000, exc. cond., $2250. Frank Boyard, 2236 S Mountain, Thornton, 26440; 674-2041.

JDO, 51, 52, TOCTOR, w/f MF bbl, both pos. & bale hog, $6,000; gun, kept in side, good con., $2,500. Bruce Boyce, 2123 Airpor, Charles Town, 25414; 674-1330.

JD, 370, 50, chopper, good cond., $950. Roger Bryant, 997 McHorty Fork Rd., Lewisburg, 26301; 661-3410; tttangus@fronti- ere.com.

JD, 390, chopper, $500, NI, 323 count- er, 2,000/e. Merle Chaplin, 857 Shoestreet Lane, Crosscreek, 26301; 624-4790.

Skid steer: fork, $500, hay pole, $300, NH, 451, mower, $1,000, MF, $6, bush hog, $900. Melvin Coinley, 1218 Flat Rock Rd., Buffalo, 25033; 937-5130.

KERNES, Rusty Harsh, P. O. Box 1547, Elkins, 26241; 839-5549.

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Goat Sales

All equine require a negative one year Coggins test. All out-of-state equine require a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Closed crop livestock, would be good for county or state fairs, $250/ea. Colin Cummings, 110 Walnut St., Evans, 25241; 372-8615. All out-of-state equine require a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Suddenlink.net.

Sewell, 70-90 acre tracts w/cab, 2 WD, 95 hrs., exceld. cond., $15,000. Richard Ward, 2861 Hawk Highway, Lost Creek, 24534; 745-8915.

MHindras: 1815HST, 4 WD, tractors, filled turf tires, 1,485 hrs. w/loader, 60" belly mower, both Mahindras, King Kutter XB 4" tiller, Farm Force potato planter, County Line, 4" bush cutter. $17,000 or best offer, J.D., Ward, 307-529-4112, Craigville, 26205; 742-3353.


JD, 3-board, 16", plot, $550, GVW, time spacer, 5-tion, stainless steel, $5,700, both field ready, JD, mounted cultivator for JD, b tractor, $250, Normal Young, 1285 Pumpkin Vine Rd., Buffalo, 25303; 973-3246.

Grass Rake, 5-spool, good cond., $450. Hope O'Toole, 595 Luther Heishman Rd., Baker, 26801; 897-3608.

Mule horse stud service for a QTr. mare, good looking. Melissa Robinson, 1389 Oil Ridge Rd., Sissonville, 26175; 911-2547.


Bonnet, burgundy, excel. cond., $1,599, all cash only. Melissa Robinson, 1389 Oil Ridge Rd., Sissonville, 26175; 911-2547.

SEwells: 26201; 516-0286. $100. Lary Adams, 352 Pringle Tree Park Rd., Buckhannon, 26201; 516-0286.

Rake, 6', $350, both excel. cond. Mark Talking Rocke, 3231.

Frame discs, $600; professional landscape, new kitchen, family room, etc. Ads for the sale or rental of farmland are acceptable from individuals, but i.e., new kitchen, family room, etc. Ads for the sale or rental of farmland are acceptable from individuals, but i.e., new kitchen, family room, etc. Ads for the sale or rental of farmland are acceptable from individuals, but i.e., new kitchen, family room, etc.

The Market Bulletin
The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if $1,000 or more of such sales were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year.

The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, incomes and expenditures. For American farmers and ranchers, the Census is their voice, their future and their opportunity to be counted.

The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the Census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence the decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture for years to come. By responding to the Census of Agriculture, producers are helping themselves, their communities, and all of U.S. agriculture.

Visit https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/census/ to make sure you are counted for the 2017 Census of Agriculture.