It only happens once a year. The State Fair of West Virginia takes place August 9-18 in Fairlea, and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) will be there for all 10 days of the fun, food and festivities. The Gus R. Douglass Agriculture Annex (next to the West Virginia Building) will be open daily 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Inside you’ll find fun for the entire family.

The West Virginia Country Store is back bigger and better than ever with more than 35 vendors selling everything from soap to soups, peppers to pet treats.

“We want everyone to visit the Country Store. We have expanded this year with 14 new vendors,” said Marketing Specialist Georgia Luke. “It is exciting to bring ‘West Virginia Grown’ to the public.”

You’ll find the West Virginia Grown logo all over the Ag Annex. It denotes that the companies in the Country Store are made or manufactured right here in West Virginia.

One of those companies is Kirkwood Winery from of Summersville. Last year Elizabeth Dix and her husband took a leap of faith that paid off in spades.

“We set up shop in the Country Store for the entire fair last year handing out samples,” said Dix. “Not only did we enjoy meeting everyone, they also got to know us and our products. It boosted sales!”

Another Ag Annex favorite that will be back again this year is the maple cotton candy machine. Watch maple producers take pure maple sugar and spin it into a fluffy confection that you can sample, or buy a bag and take it home.

“When folks smell the sweet aroma of maple coming from the machine and you give them a little sample, it usually leads to a huge smile followed by, ‘That’s the best cotton candy I’ve ever tasted. I’ll take a bag,’” said West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association President Rich Flanigan.

Our state apiarist will let you get up close and personal with some bees. Don’t worry, the demonstration hives are behind glass, but you can see how the bees make their home and their honey. There will also be WV-made honey for sale in the Country Store.

Our Plant Industries staff will also be on hand to warn you about the latest invasive pests you should know about.

“We want everyone to come visit the Ag Annex. It’s a great place to shop, learn about agriculture in West Virginia and make some memories,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “The WVDA staff works very hard throughout the year to bring you an experience you can’t get anywhere else.”

So, whether you’re hungry for some WV grown treats, have a question about West Virginia agriculture or just want to shop around, the Ag Annex is the place to be during the State Fair of West Virginia. We look forward to seeing you!
Kent’s Reflections — State Fair of West Virginia: Unforgettable Fun, Unforgettable Experiences

From technology to life’s stresses, distractions can consume the precious time we have and be the bane of our daily routines. To cope, we rely on short cuts and smart phones to make our lives easier. Quality experiences with one another have suffered in the process. Regardless, American culture has shifted into a higher gear requiring a frenzied pace just to keep up. Slowing down to experience the world has become a lost priority. These same experiences are what inspire dreams and lead to a lifetime of learning. Think back to your childhood, what was your dream when you grew up? What sparked that dream?

Inspiration doesn’t tend to come from world-changing experiences but usually something nominal such as a book, a television show or an idol. As computers and technology have become more intertwined in our lives, they have inspired thousands of technology-based careers. Our next generation of leaders tend to look locally, such as a pastor, or nationally, to those who serve in Washington, for successful road maps. Several other careers, like business executives, lawyers, journalists or doctors, are routinely found within our daily lives. But what will inspire the next generation of farmers, scientists and other STEAM-based careers?

For myself, a retired Marine, active farmer and the Commissioner of Agriculture, my dreams started at the local fair. My city parents and the Commissioner of Agriculture, my higher learning all take part in this effort to make a lasting impression on our youth. FFA members are rewarded for their hard work as they show their prized animals and compete for best-in-state. Young equestrians show off their skills as they parade for the crowds.

If you have missed previous fairs, take time out of your busy schedules, put aside the distractions, pack up the family and head to Lewisburg. Traverse the livestock barns, take part in a bee or maple demonstration and support a local farmer by visiting the WVDA Country Store. Do not overlook this hidden gem. I guarantee you will have some unforgettable fun. I don’t think you can put a value on spending time with your family and exposing children to new, innovative ideas. You never know, you may spark that dream leading to a lifetime of exploration. We must teach and inspire the next generation of farmers who will feed the world. It is vital to our state’s and country’s future.

Semper Fi,

[Signature]

Statewide Survey Released to Address Future of Agriculture in West Virginia

West Virginia’s abundant land holds promise for agricultural prosperity for the state and its people. To ensure this valuable industry thrives for years to come, agribusiness owners, retailers and other stakeholders are being asked to give their input. The West Virginia Agriculture Advisory Board launched the board in July of 2017 which includes Governor Jim Justice and the Dean of WVU Extension Service Steve Bonanno.

“As laid out in code, the board was established with the founding of the WVDA to avoid duplication of services and determine the needs of the agricultural interests in the Mountain State,” said Commissioner Leonhardt. “We want to understand what barriers exist to growing our agriculture-based businesses. We hope to find new market opportunities and avoid picking winners and losers arbitrarily.”

The steering committee, as appointed by the Agriculture Advisory Board, hired Pittsburgh-based Fourth Economy to facilitate and conduct the market analysis, as well as engage stakeholders in the development of a strategic plan for agriculture. The final plan will include prioritized, detailed strategies and potential resources to help grow and diversify West Virginia’s agricultural sector.

“We know that agriculture has the potential to be a significant economic driver for our state,” said Bonanno. “We have resources to significantly change farming and agriculture in our state, but those resources have not been put to good use. Our partners want to work together to see our farming and agricultural resources become a major economic engine for West Virginia. The feedback we receive from our agribusiness owners and others, via this survey, will be key in developing this long-term strategy.”

The “Growing West Virginia’s Agricultural Economy” survey will be available starting Monday, August 6. Anyone connected to agriculture is welcome to take the survey, including, but not limited to, farmers, processors, producers, distributors and retailers. The survey can be taken online at www.wvagadvisory.com through Monday, August 20. Paper surveys will be available at partner agency offices and at the State Fair of West Virginia.

The West Virginia Agriculture Advisory Board Steering Committee includes representatives from the WV Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, West Virginia Conservation Agency, WVU Extension Service, WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Design and West Virginia State University Extension Service. To learn more, visit www.wvagadvisory.com.

For more information, contact Crescent Gallagher at 304-380-3922 or cgallagher@wvda.us
2018 Women in Agriculture

The number of women in agriculture is growing. That is fantastic news! According to the latest U.S. Census of Agriculture, nearly 19 percent of farms here in West Virginia are owned and operated by women. That’s compared to 14 percent nationwide. On Sunday, August 12, the WVDA will honor four women who are breaking ground for the next generation of female farmers and agriculture educators. Whether they’re raising goats or tending to sick animals, growing strawberries to sell to the Farm-to-School program or helping new farmers navigate the grant-writing process, these Women in Agriculture are making a difference.

“Women have always played a vital role on the farm. Their contributions to our country’s agricultural heritage can’t be understated,” stressed Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “This year’s honorees are wonderful examples of the American entrepreneurial spirit.”

Commissioner Leonhardt will host a reception at the State Fair of West Virginia honoring this year’s Women in Agriculture on August 12, at 2 p.m., in the tent next to the fair ticket office. The public is invited to attend.

Miriam Leatherman

Miriam Leatherman has served the agriculture community faithfully for many years. Along with her husband George, she operates Buena Vista Farm located in the Old Fields area of Hardy County. The farm consists of 198 acres of prime farmland, which also includes poultry houses and a beef cattle operation. In 2011, Miriam began strawberry production on the farm. What started as a ¼ acre plot has now increased to over ½ acre. These berries are sold locally to various schools, as well as through pick-your-own on the farm. Miriam began strawberry production to provide nutritious food for locals, as she served as the WVU Hardy County Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent from 1982-2011 as well as previously holding that same position in Monongalia and Harrison counties. As of 2014, Miriam has expanded her operation by growing asparagus and salad greens, as well as producing value-added products such as strawberry syrup and pumpkin butter. Miriam is a role model for the agriculture and conservation community and is very committed to serving the residents of Hardy county and surrounding areas. When asked for advice to give other women in agriculture, she stated, “It’s important to find your growing niche.”

Cynthia A. Martel

Handling everything from community and rural development to grant writing and administration, Cynthia “Cindy” Martel has made a huge impact on West Virginia agriculture. Cindy was hired as a Marketing Specialist with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in 1994 and was the first to encourage the WVDA to get behind the agritourism movement. However, her involvement in agriculture started before her employment with WVDA. Cindy grew up in Vermont, raising and showing sheep, helping out on her grandparent’s dairy, doing a little maple syrup and being an overall “farm kid.” She didn’t know it then, but her rural background would go on to shape the rest of her life. After attending the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for her bachelor’s degree in Ag Business, Cindy moved to West Virginia in 1988. Cindy and her family operated Red Roof Farms, Inc., a gourmet food company in Fayetteville. She has played a leading role in the growth of West Virginia’s maple syrup industry as co-administrator of West Virginia’s Produce Safety Grant and much more. Cindy is an inspiration to many. Agriculture isn’t just a job, it’s her passion.

Lynn Benedict

Since 1973, Lynn Benedict has raised Alpine and Nubian dairy goats in Greenbrier County. Lynn co-founded the Mountain State Dairy Goat Association, been a leading factor in the beginnings of the dairy goat show at the State Fair of West Virginia and served two, three-year terms on the American Dairy Goat Association Board of Directors. She is currently chair of Advanced Judges. Beginning in 1975, Lynn participated in ADGA (American Dairy Goat Association) national shows. She began exhibiting in 1988 and, in that year, her Nubian doe was Reserve National Champion. She has competed in national shows across the country, and over the years, her Alpine goats have won many awards. Some of her breeding stock have been sent to Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. Lynn’s farm consists of three fenced-in acres that includes a goat barn with electric milking machines. Her herd is at about 20 goats. Her loyalty and care for her goats, combined with community service, makes her an ideal woman of agriculture. When asked for advice to give other women in agriculture, she suggested, “Make sure you love it because it takes lots of work.”

Jewell Plumley, DVM

Raised on a sheep and beef farm in Raleigh County, and a daughter of a WVU Extension Agent and Elementary School Teacher, Jewell Plumley knows the value of agriculture to West Virginia. As the first woman to be the West Virginia State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Health Division, Dr. Plumley has made a huge impact on the agriculture industry for many years. Throughout her years of service as a veterinarian, she strived to help farmers across West Virginia improve their management and herd health. Endlessly devoting her time to helping 4-H and FFA students in a variety of areas, Jewell has always devoted her time to educating youth on animal health practices. Dr. Plumley was honored as one of six women in the United States as a state veterinarian during her career. As someone who has devoted her life to animal health and well-being, Dr. Plumley has helped many people grow in the agriculture industry, proving her to be a true woman of agriculture. When asked for advice to give to other women in agriculture, her words were simple, “Go for it.”
A New Take on Fair Food

The State Fair of West Virginia is one of our very favorite times of the year. Why? It’s the great food! With more than 35 West Virginia companies stocking the shelves of the WV Country Store, vendors always have recipes to share that showcase their products. The three just below are great examples. So, when you visit the WV Country Store, come with a healthy appetite for learning. You just might find your new favorite recipe!

Maple Bacon Crack

1 tube of crescent rolls
1 cup Family Roots Farm Maple Syrup

3/4 cup of cooked bacon bits

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line large baking sheet with parchment paper, unroll crescent dough onto it. Set aside.

In a large saucepan, bring maple syrup to a boil, cooking until it reaches hard ball stage (approx. 265 degrees). Stir in bacon bits and drizzle over crescent dough, using a spatula to completely cover the dough with the maple mixture.

Cook for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown and sticky. Allow to cool. Cut in small pieces with pizza cutter.

Quick & Easy Macaroni Salad

1 lb. box elbow macaroni 
7 hard boiled eggs 
1 cup Uncle Bunk’s 14 Day Sweet Pickles- diced 
1/2 cup mayo 
1/2 cup Uncle Bunk’s 14 Day Sweet Pickle Juice

2 tbsp. Uncle Bunk’s Mustard Relish – Med. or Hot 
1/4 tsp. of: salt, pepper, onion salt, garlic salt 
Spanish olives and paprika (for garnish)

Boil water, add macaroni, cook until done, drain. Cool macaroni under cold running water, drain well.

Put in a large bowl. Add to macaroni salt, pepper, onion salt, garlic salt, 5 hard boiled eggs diced and diced pickles.

In a medium bowl add Mayo, pickle juice, and mustard relish. Mix until smooth. Pour mixture over macaroni and mix well. Slice remaining 2 hard boiled eggs, place slices on top of salad, add some olives and sprinkle with paprika.

Copperhead Tomato Cream Soup

1 can- 28 oz. tomato puree 
1 can-28 oz. crushed tomatoes 
2 cups Appalachian Mountain Specialty Foods Copperhead Bloody Mary Mix 
4 tbsp. butter 
2 tsp. minced garlic 
1 cup heavy whipping cream 
salt and pepper, to taste

In a 4 qt. pot, melt butter and sauté garlic. Add tomato puree, crushed tomatoes, and Copperhead Bloody Mary Mix. Heat thoroughly. Add heavy cream, reduce heat and simmer on low heat for 10 min. Garnish with chopped parsley and shredded parmesan cheese.

ZEB’S Barky Bites

At just 10 years old, Zeb Helmick is the co-owner of a growing agribusiness. This pint-sized entrepreneur has clients begging for his treats – literally. Zeb’s Barky Bites caters to the K-9 crowd.

“We sell turkey pumpkin jerky, chicken jerky, grain-free pumpkin pie bites, blueberry bones, peanut butter and banana bones, peanut butter and pumpkin bones,” said Zeb.

He already has a successful on-line business and his treats can also be found at Tamarack and the Wild Ramp in Huntington. Back in April, the business expanded to include Zeb's first retail store located at Centre Market in Wheeling.

“We were able to buy a commercial oven, a commercial refrigerator and lots of other small equipment. It was a boost for us,” Zeb explained while mixing up a batch of blueberry bones.

The beginnings of the business go back about a year-and-a-half when the family started making their own pet treats at home for their dogs Liam, Layla and Lucy.

“Our dogs have sensitive stomachs. Boxers are gassy,” Zeb explained. “When we gave them treats they got gassier. So, we started making our own treats at home with bananas.

I asked my parents one day if we could start selling them.”

Zeb’s parents wanted to make sure their son was serious about the venture and told him to ask again in a week.

“I figured he’d go back to his video games and forget, but he asked again the next week. So, we decided to sell dog treats,” said Zeb’s dad Steve Helmick.

Those first batches of bones were baked in the family’s kitchen and were pup-tasted and approved. When orders started picking up, the whole family pitched in. A year later came the move to Centre Market.

“I want the business to get bigger, just not too big,” said Zeb.

Zeb’s Barky Bites aren’t your traditional pet treats.

“It’s homemade. It doesn’t have stuff that you can’t pronounce,” stressed Zeb. “We use local ingredients as much as we can. We get our honey from Winslow Farms which is a local farm around here. We get all our produce from Jebbia’s. We get our maple syrup for our maple pup-tato chips from Family Roots Farm and we also get all our wheat from Winslow Farms.”

It’s a point of pride at Zeb’s Barky Bites.

“It’s all people-grade food,” Steve pointed out. “The meat we use is USDA inspected. We use organic flour and organic coconut flour. Our eggs are locally sourced.”

Zeb said his favorite part of the business is selling his products.

“Here you’ve got our sweet pup-tato chips. They’re made with sweet potatoes and maple syrup. Here’s our blueberry bones. It’s one of our most popular products,” Zeb pointed to the products on the shelf.

Zeb’s got mad skills in the baking department as well. He gets a little help every once in a while from his mom and dad, but Steve stresses the business is Zeb’s baby.

“We had an order that needed to ship, and he was up until 3 a.m. with the rest of us last weekend to make sure it got done,” stressed Steve.

For now, Zeb doesn’t see any of the profits. It goes into a savings account. That’s ok by him. As for advice he’d give other junior entrepreneurs, “Try to have fun with it and try not to overly plan it. Sometimes you gotta’ get out and just do it!”

Sound advice from a small boy with big dreams. Zeb’s Barky Bites will be available at this year’s WV Country Store at the State Fair of West Virginia. You can also find his products at zebsbarkybites.com.
Animal Health Plays a Big Part at the Fair

It’s showtime at the State Fair of West Virginia! The cattle, sheep and pigs are ready to strut their stuff in the ring. But before all of that can happen, the WVDA Animal Health staff must ensure those animals meet the requirements.

The staff will be on hand every day throughout the fair to inspect animals that enter the grounds to make sure there are no signs of communicable diseases. They also ensure all testing requirements have been met and proper movement documents are in place.

“The animal movement and entry requirements are important for multiple reasons,” stressed WVDA State Veterinarian Dr. James Maxwell. “They protect West Virginia animal industries from diseases that could have significant impact for interstate and international movement, or even result in trade restrictions from other countries. Basically, these requirements are preventative measures and limit the risk of animal disease outbreak and spread.”

If you have questions about animal health procedures at the fair, call 304-558-2214.

**VISIT THE POULTRY BARN**

The WVDA’s Poultry Building will be filled with feathered friends again this fair. From turkeys to roosters, ducklings to hens, people of all ages enjoy visiting the building to get a look at the role poultry plays in West Virginia’s agricultural economy.

“Poultry is a $305 million business for West Virginia,” said WVDA Poultry Specialist Jerry Ours. “That includes commercial poultry houses and backyard flocks. Most West Virginians don’t know that poultry is the largest, sector of agriculture in our state.”

There’s all sorts of information to be learned inside the poultry building.

“There’s the duck slide, always a fan favorite. We have chicks hatching almost every day. There are coloring sheets for our younger guests and information for the adults on how to start a backyard flock. And we also offer samples of poultry products. There’s something for everyone,” stressed Ours. The poultry building opens at 10a.m. and closes at 8p.m. each day of the fair. It’s located just behind the rabbit hatch near the barns.

**WEST VIRGINIA FEEDER CATTLE AND CALF SALES 2018 FALL SCHEDULE**

Special Graded Feeder Sales – Farm Fresh Cattle

**SPONSORED BY:** West Virginia Livestock Auction Markets, West Virginia Cattlemen’s Association, West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Jonathan Hall, WVDA 304-558-2210, or Kevin Shaffer, Ph.D., WVU Extension 304-293-2669.
**Cattle Sales**

- Blue Roan: 4 yr. bull, 1 ton, $2,000. John Ashley, 5626 Parkersburg Rd., Reedley, 25927; 979-2221.
- Limousin: LIM Flex & Angus, cows, bulls
  - Black Angus 2-yr. heifers, 3
  - Black Angus 20-mo. bull, Objective

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**AD DEADLINES**

September 8th – Cattle, Dairy, Equestrian, Farm Sales.

September 12th – Farm and Ranch, Land.

September 14th – Home and Garden, Real Estate, Vehicles.

September 17th – All other ads.

**Classified Announcements**

**Submissions**

To be considered for publication, ads must be submitted in writing in accordance with the deadlines above.

- **Format**: All text must be typed. A typewriter is preferred. No cursive writing, no handprint.
- **Text**: All text must be readable from a distance of at least 3 feet. Do not underline, italicize or make text smaller than 12 point (see examples on page 5).
- **Contact Information**: Provide complete name, phone number, and address. When necessary, include a valid e-mail address.

**Classified Rates**

- $1.00 per word, minimum charge $10.00.

**Certification**

To be certified, all ads must include complete name, phone number, and address. Include a valid e-mail address when applicable.

**Classified Template**

1. Advertisements for sale must be in complete sentences.
2. All bee colonies must be registered with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.
3. All livestock must be registered with the appropriate registration services.
4. All machinery must be listed in complete sentences.
5. All real estate ads must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
6. All land ads must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
7. All homes for sale must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
8. All vehicles for sale must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
9. All farm equipment for sale must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
10. All livestock sales must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
11. All equipment sales must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
12. All home and garden sales must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
13. All real estate sales must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
14. All land sales must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
15. All personal services must be accompanied by a complete description of the property, including its location, size, and condition.
16. All advertising must be submitted in writing in accordance with the deadlines above.
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**Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame**

Five new members were enshrined into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame on July 14 at a ceremony at Jackson’s Mill. The late Dr. Robert Young, Rick Snuffer and Harold Skidmore were honored for their decades of service in the agriculture industry. Barbara Breshock and Russ Richardson were honored for their bodies of work in forestry.

The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame enshrined its first class in 1975. The number of enshrinees now totals 267.

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**Saddle, Brown Western, 15” wicupper, bri- dle witsrifle bit, good cond., $350. Lee Sim- mons, 4305 Rt. 34, Hurricane, 25626; 567- 8073.

**Trailer,** 4-horse, gooseneck, $2,500. Charles Moore, 94 Dogwood Trails, Naper, 26361; 765- 9644.

**Acreage,** Clay Co., 195 acres, adjoining city limits of Summersville, ½ mile rd. frontage, on Rt. 15, may consider partial financing, $162,000. Larry Stonestreet, 900 Panorama Dr., Spencer, 25264; 768-1166.

**Hay,** 18' x 4' round bales, mixed grass, net wrapped, $25/bale. Larry Supple, 17122 Wynne Road, 25142; 767-9023.

**Sheep,** mixed blood, black & white; Reg. NKR/AKGA, Jones/Thompson. Tina Creamer, equinerescue@live.com.

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**Workbook**

The 2018 class of the West Virginia and Forestry Hall of Fame: Harold Skidmore, Rick Snuffer, Barbara Breshock, Russ Richardson, and LaVonne Young representing her late husband Dr. Robert Young.

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**Equine Events**

**NHBA Sanctioned Contest Event, August 4, 2013.**

- **Open Show,** August 18, 3 p.m. Jackie Co. Jr. Fairgrounds, Cottleville, WV. Kendra White, 542-5229.

- **Appaloosa Training/Show Face Off,** August 24-25, 2013. 4 p.m.-7 p.m., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Winfield Riding Arena, Winfield, WV. Tina Creamer,equinerescue@live.com.

- **Heartland Classic Open Fun Horse Show,** August 25, 2013. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Winfield Riding Arena, Winfield, WV. Tina Creamer,equinerescue@live.com.

- **Summer Classic Fun Show,** August 25, 2013. 4 p.m. Jackie Co. Jr. Fairgrounds, Cottleville, WV. Carla Parsons, 545-7475.

- **All Gaited Horse Show,** August 25, 2013. 6:30 p.m. Elk River Boots & Saddle Club Grounds, Alice Hardman Blankenship, 541-6399.


- **Trailer,** 4-lane, full length, 5'6" x 8', $2,400. Dick Cowan, 148 W. 2nd Street, Madison County, Madison County, Madison County.

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**Equestrian Events**

**River Rd., Branchland, 25506; 778-3569.**

**New Hope Rd., Bluefield, 24701; 800-6293.**

**Property, 25124; hobocon@hotmail.com.**

**Tonya Phillips, 1430 Tribble Rd., Leon, 25123; 458-1992.**

**Mary Wolfe, 1430 Tribble Rd., Leon, 25123; 458-1992.**

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**Help Wants**

Looking for someone to cut hay, 10 A., gentle slope, orchard grass & clover. C. Scott, 1671666, or 304-565-5307.

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**Wheat,** 125 acres, 2 miles north of West Union, Alice Hardman Blankenship, 541-6399.

**Wallingford,** 100 acres, near the West Virginia/Ohio line, Donald K. Liskey, 8346 New Hope Rd., Bluefield, 24701; 800-6293.

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**Hog Sales**

Berkshire, 17, 218 pigs, del. avail., $175-$650, discount for quantity. Hope O'Toole, 585 Luther Heishman Rd., Baker, 26801; 897-7073; donkeymomhope@gmail.com.

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**Horse Sales**

Whitney, 10 yr., broke & ridden; side saddle, 800-6293.

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**Poultry Sales**


No riding habits or other clothes; appliances or tools; firewood. Only dogs recognized by the AKC as herding or working can be accepted.

- **Rabbit,** 7-8 lbs.; $5-7.50, live or 250000; 525-3452; gamel81@aol.com.

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**Shore Sales**


- **Soficked,** crossbred ram, $300; reg. yrly rams, $375/up, reg. ewe & lambs, $300/ up. Randy Long, 25 P.O. Box 241, Cabins, 26505; 257-1442; after 6 p.m.

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**Miscellaneous Sales**


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**Equestrian Events**

**Consignment Farmers Market**

Crafters & artisans of WV.

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**Northwest Market Inc.**

Consign farmers Market Year round Mon.-Sat. 8 am-6 pm.

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**WV Christmas Tree Growers Association 2018 SUMMER MEETING**

PRODUCE SAFETY GROWERS

Last month we discussed the criteria that fruit and vegetable growers would use to determine if they were exempt from the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety (PS) rules. Firms with a gross income average of $25,000 over three years or less (adjusted for inflation) of qualified products need to keep records to verify their exemption status for the years that the exemption was claimed. As we follow the FDA decision tree, you may find yourself beyond the criteria for exempt status. The provisions of the rule recognize small and mid-size produce operations are diverse in their distribution (i.e., farmers markets, wholesale, farm to school, etc.) and have developed a “Qualified exemption” (QE).

Let’s walk through the decision making process to see if this avenue works for your operation.

A worksheet that separates out your exemption categories and provides for verification can be found at https://www.ncrfsma.org/files/page/files/nr/nrr exemption_worksheet_9x12feb_27.pdf. If you have any questions please submit them to wvproduce@wvda.us.

FFA SETS NEW MEMBERSHIP RECORD

The 90th annual West Virginia FFA Convention kicked off with some great news. Advisor Jason Hughes announced to a packed house at Cedar Lakes Conference Center that membership numbers have reached an all-time high of 5,360 members. That beats the previous record set 55 years ago in 1963 when membership was at 5,337.

“Jason Hughes and our agriculture teachers have done a tremendous job recruiting and training our future farmers,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “It is evident West Virginia contains the home-grown talent needed to expand our agricultural industries. In addition to inspiring the next generation of producers, FFA programs teach invaluable life skills to our students. Those involved in FFA learn everything from leadership to public speaking. No matter their career path, these students benefit from being a member of a West Virginia FFA chapter.”

There are currently 68 high schools and 10 middle schools with FFA chapters, including two new chapters this year: Tygarts Valley Middle School and the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. Hughes said that will grow by at least two more in the coming year with Van Jr./Sr. High and Moundsville Middle School joining in 2018-2019.

GARDEN CALENDAR

August 2018

Source: WVU Extension Service Garden Calendar

AUG 1 ... Add non-seed-bearing weeds to compost.
AUG 2 ... Water plants deeply each time.
AUG 3 ... Seed spinach.
AUG 4 ... Refrigerate or chill spinach seed for 1 to 2 days before sowing.
AUG 6 ... Plant Chinese cabbage.
AUG 7 ... Seed lettuce for fall crop.
AUG 8 ... Watch for downy mildew.
AUG 9 ... Seed mustard greens.
AUG 10 ... Seed fall cucumbers.
AUG 11 ... Control broadleaf lawn weeds.
AUG 13 ... Take note of new varieties.
AUG 14 ... Harvest okra pods every other day. Install sod.
AUG 15 ... Seed rutabagas.
AUG 16 ... Seed Asian greens.
AUG 17 ... Watch for powdery mildew on pumpkins and winter squash.
AUG 18 ... Seed radishes.
AUG 21 ... Seed fall herbs.
AUG 22 ... Seed bok choy.
AUG 23 ... Turn compost.
AUG 24 ... Seed turnips.
AUG 27 ... Plant collards.
AUG 28 ... Seed lawn.
AUG 29 ... Apply nitrogen to strawberries.
AUG 30 ... Seed arugula.

Is my farm regulated under the proposed FSMA Produce Safety Rule?

Part II: You raise and sell more than $25,000 of produce annually, including types that are usually consumed raw (such as greens, tomatoes, fruit, etc.). What now?

Will the produce you grow be processed in a way that kills potential pathogens, such as through commercial canning?

For the produce that won’t be processed.

Do you sell less than $250,000 annually of produce (based on 3 year average), but sell half or less of your products directly to consumers or local businesses?

For the produce that is processed.

Do you sell less than $500,000 annually of all food, AND (b) sell more than half your products directly to: (i) individual consumers, and/or (ii) restaurants or retailers located in the same state or the same Indian reservation as your farm or within 275 miles of your farm?

Some of it

You are subject to the record-keeping, compliance & enforcement provisions of the Produce Safety Rule, but not the substantive requirements about how to grow or harvest the crops.

For the produce that won’t be processed.

You have a “qualified exemption” under the Textor Amendment. You must label the food or have a sign at the point of sale with the name and full address of the farm. You are also subject to certain record keeping requirements, and may have your exemption revoked by FDA for cause on a case-by-case basis.

For the produce that is processed.

You are a “very small business” that is subject to the rule.

You have 4 years to come into compliance with most of the requirements and an additional 2 years for the water requirements.

You are a “small business” that is subject to the rule.

You have 5 years to come into compliance with most of the requirements and an additional 2 years to comply with the water requirements.

Do you average more than $500,000 in sales of produce annually?

NO

YES

*Deadlines are calculated from the rule’s effective date of January 26, 2016. For farmers growing annuals, the deadlines are shorter: 3 years for very small businesses, 2 years for small businesses, and 1 year for all others.

Gardening information developed by Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance ©2015 These flowcharts are not legal advice. The actual legal requirements that apply to your farm or your food business will depend on the specifics of your operation.

www.farmandranchfreedom.org • info@farmandranchfreedom.org • (254) 697-2881

SEE A POTENTIAL INVASIVE PEST?

Send us a photo with your name and contact info to bugbusters@wvda.us or 304-558-2212.