Kate and Taylor Tomlinson aren’t just twins, they’re a double threat when they’re in the show ring. The 13-year-olds from Greenbrier County have been raising and showing lambs and steers for almost as long as they can remember.

“This is our sixth year showing animals,” explained Kate. “I love the environment and all the people. And I just love working with my animals.”

Both girls joined the Central Willing Workers 4-H club when they were just seven. They’re following in their dad John’s footsteps. The veterinarian and beef cattle farmer grew up in 4-H. He’s proud his daughters are part of the club he helps lead, and said farming is in their blood.

“The twins have been involved on the farm since they were old enough for us to carry around. We had them in carry-on seats in a buggy or tractor when they were two,” laughed John.

By the age of five, Kate and Taylor were helping their parents in the lambing barn. When they were old enough to compete, they were anxious to take on the challenge.

“We started them with sheep. It was a small, safe 4-H project, but it’s still an extreme amount of work for the kids,” said John. “They’re committing hours a day, all year long.”

Now the twins raise and show calves, heifers and steers.

“It gets stressful a couple hours before you show because you’re worried something might happen,” said Taylor. “Like my calf this year. He likes to do his own thing.”

John stressed the girls keep a cool head and focus on the important parts of their projects.

“Our most important classes are showmanship, where it’s judging the girls, and the skill-a-thon, which is the academic knowledge. We put the least amount of weight on these purebred projects. So, if they don’t do good because the cow’s not a good cow, that’s not important,” stressed John. “The big thing is if they’re winning their skill-a-thon and they’re doing well in showmanship. That goes to a point system for premier exhibitor. We want them to know the girls have that knowledge and worked hard for showmanship.”

The twins stress raising their cattle is hard work. Early mornings, afternoons and evenings in the barn aren’t unusual. And they have a unique way to stay motivated.

“Last year I won premier exhibitor in sheep,” said Kate. “This year Taylor did better than me in the skill-a-thon for cattle. We always have a little competition going on.”

“Skill-a-thon, that’s always one of the main competitions we go after,” explained Taylor. “I’ll get my score and then I’ll ask Kate about hers. She’ll be like, ‘Well, I got a higher score than that.’ But really she’ll just add on a couple of points from her actual score just to pretend she’s outscored me.”

Even dad admitted they like to one-up each other.

“They are terribly competitive among themselves. They remember exactly who won what classes last year at the state fair,” according to John.

The girls laugh about their competitive nature but said when in a pinch they stick together.

“Whenever Kate is blowing out her steer, I’ll be helping her, or when I’m washing my heifer, she’ll come and help me,” said Taylor.

When the twins compete, the whole family (including friends) are on hand to watch the girls. They say it’s important to stay focused. And no matter what the outcome, John said he’s always proud of his girls.

“I love to see them out there incorporating work ethic and getting to experience success. It’s the culmination of all that work and getting to enjoy that,” said John. “We’re getting to see them develop speaking skills, self-confidence, posture. We want them to be competitive in the world as young Christian women.”

When asked who was going to win top prize this year, Kate said, “My heifer, of course.”

Taylor just rolled her eyes.
We hear it over and over that access to broadband is key to West Virginia’s future. As our state and other rural communities continuously struggle with connecting rural residents to the internet, President Trump and industry leaders are now exploring ways to bring “5G” to the United States. At the same time, rural states are struggling to bring basic services to the many valleys and hollows our citizens call home. These are the same services much of America can hardly fathom living one second without. Sadly, in rural America, living without high-speed internet is a simple reality.

A recent incident at my own home brought this issue full circle. While lying on my sofa one morning, I felt a prick on my shin. A sudden kick threw a bat into the air. Living in an old 1890s farmhouse near Blacksville, my wife Shirley and I are used to the critters that share our home. The mystery of how that bat ended up teeth deep into my leg we will save for another day.

After washing the wound site, I immediately went online to see what next steps should be taken, as well as how soon to seek professional medical care. Given the remoteness of our home, the closest medical services are a 45-minute drive to Morgantown. Long gone are the days of small-town doctors many of us remember. Thankfully, my research concluded treatment was not necessary immediately, so I could make that drive when convenient.

If I was not able to conduct such a quick search, the rational choice would have been to seek medical attention as soon as possible. Fortunately, my family can afford satellite service, my only choice for internet, but that is not the case for everyone. I wondered what one of the tens of thousands of West Virginians without internet access would have done in a similar situation. This would most likely entail waking up the family and driving to the nearest emergency room. Not a convenient trip for those who enjoy remote living.

While waiting to be seen by a medical professional, I had the opportunity to dig further into our economic and broadband picture. Recent reports show that West Virginia’s economy is indeed improving, but much of that growth is found in fewer than 15 counties. The other 40 counties of this beautiful state have something to offer, but without access to broadband, it’s nearly impossible to expect businesses to relocate to those areas. Even farming and agriculture-based businesses are more reliant today on social media and online marketing than just a few years ago.

Lack of access to broadband is not only a prohibitor to attracting new industry to areas but also a social well-being contributor. Many employees are unwilling to relocate to communities unless they have reasonable access to a quality education and healthcare. Both of these quality of life standards, because of tele-medicine and alternative forms of learning, are becoming more heavily reliant on broadband and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Looking past my “batty” situation, if our goal is to continue to provide services to rural areas and foster a better West Virginia, we will need to expand access to broadband and do it quickly. Our nation’s leaders are looking to modernize existing broadband infrastructure to help foster economic growth, as well as tap into emerging industries and markets. If our state cannot catch up to the rest of the nation, we once again look to be left behind.

PRODUCE SAFETY: PRODUCE, PROCESS OR MIX?

Many facilities that fall under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for produce may also meet some of the criteria of another component of the 7-part regulation entitled, “Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule (the PC Rule).”* Farms that meet the criteria for produce and package their products into retail packs and/or “process” their produce in any way prior to leaving the harvest area (i.e. storage of produce on-site in refrigeration units), need to consider their role in the FSMA regulation and food distribution system. For some farms, these activities may qualify or exempt them from additional criteria and inspection under the PC Rule.

In West Virginia, the FSMA produce inspections are conducted by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture while Preventive Control firms are inspected under the authority of the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health Environmental Services Division (District Sanitarians). Farms that co-mingle products and create a retail pack of salad mix, for example, would fall under the mixed firm definition. Additional exemptions and modified requirements may be available to qualifying firms based on type of produce processed, production levels and income guidelines. To see if you need to explore the produce, mixed and preventive control guidelines, follow the decision trees for your products found at http://sustainableagriculture.net/fsma/who-is-affected/.

Still not sure or know that you need a trained qualified individual on staff? Want to learn more about the requirements that need to be implemented at your farm, processing or aggregation facility? Join us starting at noon on September 24th and all day September 25th and 26th for a Preventive Controls workshop. In addition to learning about regulations, you will explore the tools needed to comply with standards required of processors and food manufacturers. Attendance at the entire course is mandatory for issuance of a certificate. The course will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Bridgeport, WV. The cost is $175.00 plus a $50.00 certificate fee per person. Payment can be made at the door, however, pre-registration is required and can be done by visiting http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egh16t3ojyjrch/start.


UPCOMING TRAINING
Save the Date—Preventive Controls training for processed and fresh foods on September 24, 25, 26, 2019 at the Bridgeport Courtyard by Marriott. The course cost is $250 and includes instruction and materials for future use and implementation. This course is of particular interest to mixed facilities (fresh food production and processing at the same location) and those looking to increase food safety awareness and outbreak prevention. Register at http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egh16t3ojyjrch/start

*21 CFR Part 117 – Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-based Preventive Controls for Human Food

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The Market Bulletin: Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner | Joseph L. Hatton, Deputy Commissioner
Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) has been confirmed in horses in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. The outbreak, which started on June 21 in Texas, has mainly affected horses and cattle. VSV is a reportable disease of livestock that causes painful blisters and sores on the mouth, nostrils, teats and feet of horses, cattle, swine and other livestock. Flies and midges are the insect vectors mainly responsible for transmitting VSV.

The virus can also be spread through direct contact with infected livestock and indirectly through contact with contaminated equipment and tack. Owners are encouraged to report these symptoms to their veterinarian immediately as most animals infected with VSV recover with treatment and supportive care. Isolation of affected and exposed animals, as well as fly and insect control, are the most important steps in preventing the disease. Good sanitation and bio-security measures can help avoid transmission. Suspect cases of VSV should be immediately reported to the West Virginia State Veterinarian’s office at 304-558-2214.


Women in Agriculture Honored at State Fair

Five outstanding women in West Virginia agriculture were honored on August 11 during a reception at the State Fair of West Virginia. Each has played a vital role in their community. From cattle and poultry farmers to 4-H advisors and mentors, these women stand out in their field. (Pictured above) Lois Carr, Betty Bosley, Carol Taylor, Penny Gritt Goff, and the late JoAnn Watterson (represented by her husband Robert Watterson) were named West Virginia Women in Ag. They join 46 other women who have been honored with the award since 2010.
The 2019 State Fair of West Virginia was a big hit for the West Virginia Country Store. More than 30 vendors stocked the shelves with products like BBQ sauce, wine, maple syrup, popcorn, and more. The Country Store was a big hit with visitors, who flocked to the store to look for WV grown products. Whether shoppers were buying for themselves or purchasing the products as gifts, few walked out of the Country Store empty-handed. Sales for this year’s Country Store were up by 20 percent.

"When we brought the West Virginia Grown presence back from its hiatus, we never knew the impact it would have for our vendors," said Commissioner Kent Leonhardt. "Each year we have seen the sales and interest in the store increase. All the while, producers have used the store as a way to network with other business owners or better understand consumers’ needs and desires. Plain and simple, when the store grows our vendors benefit."

Plans for next year’s WV Country Store at the State Fair of West Virginia are already underway. We hope to see you in 2020!
Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture for the Day

Four West Virginia students were chosen as this year’s Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture for a Day. The students, ranging in age from 12 to 16, spent time with Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) staff during the State Fair of West Virginia, August 8-17. This was the third year of the program. Each student entered an essay, poem or project with the theme “The Future of Agriculture: How Technology Can Change the Industry.”

“From biochemist to logistical engineers, our food system is more intertwined with science and technology than ever before. We must show our students agriculture is more than farming,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “The goal of the program is to inspire the next generation of agricultural thinkers.”

The students were able to shadow Commissioner Leonhardt and his staff, sitting in on meetings and events, touring the fair grounds and learning about all the ways the WVDA is involved in the fair.

Cody Mitchell –Pendleton County
This 13-year-old is a student at Petersburg High School where he is involved in FFA and 4-H. He is a fourth-generation farmer who loves raising cattle, pigs and produce. He hopes to not only feed his family with the food he grows and produces but also his school and community.

Devon Price –Hancock County
The 16-year-old, from Weinton, enjoys gardening. This year he’s planted beans, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and sunflowers. His family also owns a farm in Doodridge County. Devon is a student at Weir High School.

Elizabeth Friel –Pocahontas County
A 13-year-old student at Marlinton Middle, Elizabeth enrolled in horticulture class and loves working in the school’s greenhouse. She’s shown animals at local FFA and 4-H sales and has participated in her county’s Ham, Bacon and Egg Sale.

Maverick Smailes –Greenbrier County
This 12-year-old knows all about farming. His family owns cattle and operates two high tunnels. The Westem Greenbrier Middle School student urges everyone to purchase food grown by local farmers. He says buyers can be confident they’re eating the very best.

SAVE THE DATE

NOV. 15-16, 2019
Women in Agriculture Conference
Stonewall Resort
Roanoke, West Virginia

For more information contact:
Emily Wells at Emily.Wells@mail.wvu.edu,
304-728-7413 or go to
extension.wvu.edu/agriculture/
women-in-agriculture

Veteran of the Month:
George McCormick

As a little boy, George McCormick dreamed of becoming a cowboy and a rancher. He ended up in the Navy instead. Stationed on a ship for more than two years convinced this veteran he was a land lover. Now, after a career as a correctional officer, George is living out his childhood dream. He purchased a 27-acre farm in Cabell County.

McCormick said he wouldn’t be where he is today if it weren’t for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). He took a class offered by both at the Hershel Woody Williams VA Medical Center and now has a plan to turn those acres into a cattle and pig farm.

Learn more about McCormick’s journey and his new plans at agriculture.wv.gov.
Ham Stand a Success for Greenbrier East FFA

The Greenbrier East FFA Ham Stand at the State Fair of West Virginia has been around for a long time feeding hungry fair-goers. Brianna Wickle, a Greenbrier East FFA member can tell you what’s on the menu by memory. “We have ham sandwiches, BLTs, pork tenderloin, biscuits and sausage gravy...” The list goes on.

What’s unique about this food booth is who’s doing the work, where the money is going and where the food comes from.

Shelby Adkins is one of the agriculture instructors at Greenbrier East High School.

“Every student has volunteered to work the stand. We place them in different positions, different roles. Some of them are up front, speaking to the customers, taking orders. Some are in the back making the food. We actually have students working the grill,” Adkins said. “We do have adults here to supervise, but other than that, this student-led.”

All the students involved are members of the Greenbrier East FFA chapter.

“There’s a lot of love we put into it,” said Junior Allison Wickline. “There’s a lot of memories you make with the people you work with and the customers you meet.”

One new aspect of the ham stand involved where some of their product came from.

“The neat thing this year our sausage gravy is actually raised at the school,” said Adkins. “This is the first time we’ve made that happen. We had seven market hogs at the school. The students processed those into sausage and it’s used in our gravy!”

Wickline said the customers appreciate their hard work.

“It’s reassuring for customers to know where the product comes from. It’s a good product. It’s farm-fresh,” explained Wickline.

Adkins stressed it’s a good lesson for her students as well.

“It’s so neat for the students to see the circle of how this works. Our students receive them as piglets and raised them to market hogs. Those same kids are now working shifts here at the ham stand. They were the ones that came every day to feed the pigs. They watched them grow, took weights. They’ve done the feed research with them. They get to see the full circle. Now they’re serving it out the window to the people at the West Virginia State Fair,” said Adkins.

The sausage isn’t the only product at the stand that’s local. Those tomatoes on the BLT come right down from the roof.

“Our tomatoes are awesome! One of our alumni members, Briar Ellis, raised them. It was his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in high school. He’s now taken it on as a small business. He worked plenty of shifts here at the ham stand,” said Adkins.

All the proceeds from the ham stand go right back to the FFA.

“Our goal is to raise enough to cover our expenses for most of the year. This is our largest fundraiser,” explained Adkins.

The student’s receive “payment” in the form of a trip.

“Our students who volunteer for three shifts, we take them on an educational field trip. This year we’re hoping to head to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg,” said Adkins.

With the start of the new school year, FFA students will be raising more piglets.

“We’ll be helping to raise the pigs this year for next year’s fair,” said Wickline. “I’m really looking forward to it!”

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NH, H6740, 7'10" cut, disc mower, 30 hrs., N. Grant St., Clarksburg, 26301; 622-6474.

excel tires/cond., $10,000. Layton Baker, 5093 Cormick ground driven manure spreader, $850.

kept, $15,000; NH 268, sq. baler, $1,500; Mcintosh; backhoes (except 3-pt. hitch), dozers or crm. 24954; 799-6298; davepamsharpes@frontier.

reg. #3790407, approx. 1,600 lbs., $1,800/obo. Leslie Gallien, 474 Wymer Rd., Harwood, 26717; 615-7285.

Hicks, 348 Cherry Hill Lane, Buckhannon, 26717; 265-8070.


Hughart, 2021 Holiday Run Rd., Smoot, 24977; 661-1945; samnanafarm@g.mail.com.

Mile 11-yr., 14.2 hrs. good cond., $1,000. Mae Mallow, P.O. Box 663, Franklin, 26207; 358-7041.

AHQA reg. 5-yr. ram, 14. A. H. Famous H’Owe & Go See Mindy blood, green break, $800, 14-yr. pony, barrel & pole trained, child cond., $125. Lora Kinnard, 1623 Charles Rd., Clendenin, 25425; 548-5646.

Horse Sales
Belgian: approx. 2'/yr. mares, 2, $200. E. Suffolk: $20; $100, half brother halter broke, 4 yrs. old, $500, all good cond. Doug Evans, 205 Herb_hash Rd., Egton, 26717; 735-3316.

M-F, 359 Meadow Dream Lane, Nitro, WV 445-5198.

Melva Kulick, 77-53-601; gail@melva.net.

Darrell Cooper, 184 Cooper Hollow Rd., Hinton, 25929; 330-6562; darrell@coopercountry.com.

N, 258, baler, 9 teether, rake & fert. spread; $300. Leon Godbold, 228 Maple Dr., Homestead Rd, Jacksons, 26787; 889-2816.

Kubota, 17, 3830, tractor w/longer end load – $1,650. John Deere, 2823 Eastland Blvd., Union, 26733; 925-2999.


Equestrian Sales
Riding Camp & Instruction, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. M, 359 Meadow Dream Lane, Nitro, WV 445-5198.

Etc.
Equipment Wannas

Portable loading chute for cattle. Micheal Hicks, 348 Cherry Hill Lane, Buckhannon, 26717; 2472-2715.

Grand Valley, $250. Sam Naana, 8 Sunset Ave., Smoot, 24977; 661-1945.


Jobs Sale
Horse boarding, $350/mo. Kimberly D’Arcy, 184 Homestead Lane, Charleston, 25312; 984-0950.

Plant Sales
No medicinal plants, nursery stock, common agricultural seeds unless tested for germination. Mike Burns, 312 Holiday Rd., Charlestown, 25414; 622-0474.

Winchester, $120. Debbie Hansford, 215 1st Ave., Bridgeport, 26440; 842-2795.

Horse, $150/up. Phyllis Hutchinson, 2102 Sundet Dr., Charleston, 25302; 867-2003.

Buck lambs, $125,Bob Evans, 205 Herb Hash Rd., Egton, 26717; 735-3316.

St. Croix: 2-yr. breeding rats, good sheep characteristics, good size, $350, registerable, 4/16 breeding ewes, great wolves, parent breed of Katahdin, $250, both good cond. Taffy, 215 Sunset Lane, Basham, 25401; 661-1945; samnanafarm@g.mail.com.

Horse: 2-yr. ewe & ewe lambs, $300/obo; crossed rats, $150. Lucy Kimberly, P.O. Box 241, Cabins, 26557; 254-7125.


Reg. pure and京 is: yr. ram, 600 lbs., $175; 100, ram & ewe lambs. $200/ea. Ronnie Vance, P.O. Box 244, Seneca Rock, 26678; 568-2671.

Miscellaneous Sales
No riding habits or other clothes; appliances or furnishing, household utensils, tools or equipment; food processing or preservation items or equipment; general wood working tools other than equipment which the AKC as herding or working can accept.


Apple butter kettle, 1-gal. w/stand, $300. Melvin Beckett, 90 Delmore Lane, Danville, 25134; 2469.


Hay, fresh cut, 4’x5 rounds, good hay, $200; 2’x5, harvested dry, $100. E. St. Clair, P.O. Box 191, Westover, Wv., 25561; 735-4500.

Ig, 20% wooden wheels, $500; wobble wheel 4’x4‘, gas auger, 1.5 hp, 4" & 6". John Russell, 10394 Charleston Rd., Crum, 25570; 743-3134.

Hog: 4x4, round bales, $25/bale. Doug Currier, 1308 Locust Ln., Clay, 25511; 835-0767; dcurrier@gmail.com.

Acresage: Wood crp. #90, 2.5 acres, completely fenced w/line for livestock, rolls hills open, fields closed to town but very private, 10 min. to Parkersburg, no land contracts or partial sales, $26,000. Jim Easton, 3005 Camden Ave., Parkersburg, 26101; 520-238-1210.

Hay: 9x9, bales, $275/bale. Aubrey Envin, 469 Envin Rd., Winfield, 25212; 562-9619.


Acresage: Putnam/Jackson Co., 125 A., woods, pasture, sm. pond, hay, semi paved rd., deep well, never used, free gas, well, septic, drilled well, stream, Lib woods, pasture, sm. pond, hay, semi paved rd., 5 miles from West Union, 30 min. to Clarksburg, rage, well, elec., free gas avail. $175,000. Lyvonne Harsh, 2119 Accident Rd., Eglon, 26716; 735-3121.

Horses: Sale: 8-yr. old, w/t, 15.2 hh, gelding, black, $500; 7-yr. old, w/t, chestnut, $550; 7-yr. old, w/t, palomino, $500; 7-yr. old, w/t, buckskin, $400. Rob Gaskins, 1654 Woodland Rd., Mathias, 26110; 392-5231.

Hay: 9x7, round bales, mixed grass, clover, w/clover, fields fert., no rain, $30/bale. Phil Gillespie Rd., Harrisville, 26362; 643-5663.


Wagons: buckboard style: mini or pony, $500; team w/whit. brakes, for Haflinger, $700 both Amish made. Noela Schultz, 786 Buffalo Crk. Rd., West Hamlin, 25571; 654-6666.

Applications for fy 2020 matching funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service are due by Sept. 27th. Contact, 724-1414; download the FY20 application from our website www.jeferson.wvfp.org .

Rabbits: Lisa Sheets, Rt. 1, Box 2, Dun- more, 24938; 456-4071.

MOUNTAIN STATE FALL SPECTACULAR FALL SALE
October 19
Multi-Purpose Center at Jackson’s Point, 4165 Millffset, WV. Selling: Bulls, cow/calf pr, bred heifers & open heifers. Contact, Kent Scott, 573-0844; Callie Taylor, 668-2102.

JEFFERSON CO. FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD
Application Announcement for agricultural conservation easements Applications are due by February 15th Application Announcement for agricultural conservation easements Applications are due by Sept. 15th. Contact, 724-1414; download the FY20 application from our website www.jeferson.wvfp.org .

GARDEN CALENDAR
September 2019 Source: WWU Extension Service


September 6: Renovate lawn or reseed bare spots. Cover seed crop. Prepare root cellar.


September 8: Build a cold frame. Seed carrots in high tunnel or coldframe.

THE MARKET BULLETIN
WV Department of Agriculture
Kant A. Leomhardt, Commissioner
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170
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