



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER, KENT A. LEONHARDT

THE

MARKET

VOLUME NO. 110 | ISSUE NO. 10

Bulletin

OCTOBER 2026

Telling the story of
West Virginia Agriculture

► Fall is in full swing, and so is pumpkin season! Celebrate the season by supporting local growers and picking up a West Virginia grown pumpkin.

COMMISSIONER KENT A. LEONHARDT • DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AMIE MINOR-RICHARD



WVDA NEWS

From the Commissioner

I have written before about the importance of agricultural statistics. This year, we began sharing excerpts from the Mountain State Reporter in our Market Bulletin to put those numbers in more readers' hands. Produced monthly by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) West Virginia Field Office in cooperation with the WVDA, the Reporter tracks everything from livestock inventories to crop production. Numbers never tell the whole story of farming, but they help us understand where we have been, the challenges we face and where agriculture is headed.

Recent NASS figures offer encouraging news.

Despite unpredictable weather, rising costs and pressure on farmland, West Virginia agriculture is holding its own.

In 2025, acreage harvested for corn grain and hay increased. That matters to our crop growers, livestock producers and local agricultural economy. Looking ahead, NASS estimates hay acreage will increase again in 2026. Dependable forage is the foundation of strong livestock operations, especially after challenging growing seasons.

Our cattle producers have shown resilience, too. Despite drought conditions that strained grazing and hay supplies, West Virginia's cattle inventory remained at approximately 365,000 head at the beginning of both 2025 and 2026. Holding steady through those conditions reflects the commitment of producers who work hard to keep their herds healthy and their farms operating.

Not every sector has been as fortunate. This spring's devastating freeze hit our fruit growers hard, particularly in the Eastern Panhandle. Many orchardists suffered significant losses, a reminder that even the most experienced farmer cannot control Mother Nature.

There is another important story in the data: the continued presence of our farms. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms nationwide declined nearly 7% between 2017 and 2022. In West Virginia, the decline was approximately 3.5%. We have not escaped the loss of farms or farmland, but we retained a greater share of our farm operations than the nation as a whole. For a state where so much agriculture is rooted in family farms, that matters.

These numbers do not erase the hardships our farmers face. They do, however, reflect an agricultural community that continues to plant, raise livestock, adapt and invest in the future.

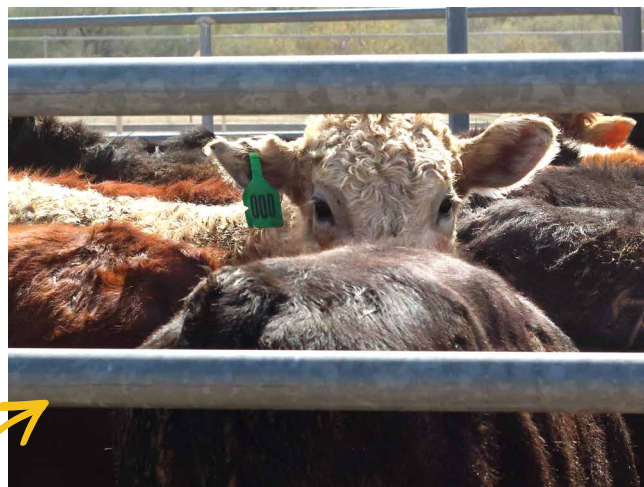
Kent A. Leonhardt

Commissioner of Agriculture
Kent A. Leonhardt

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET VOUCHERS



If you're a senior who received a Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program voucher earlier this year, time is running out to use them! The vouchers are good through October 31 at participating farmers markets and farm stands across West Virginia.



AUCTIONEER EXAM

Auctioneers and Apprentice Auctioneers, mark your calendars! Auctioneer exams will take place on Tuesday, November 17. Arrive at the Guthrie Agriculture Complex, Bldg. 2 (217 Gus R. Douglass Ln., Charleston), no later than 8:30 a.m. for the written exam. The oral examinations will begin at noon. Bring a copy of your valid driver's license and your exam fee, if you haven't already paid. A pre-exam review (sponsored by the WV Auctioneers Assoc.) will be offered on Monday, November 16, starting at 5:30 p.m. Please arrive early. For more information, contact Jennifer Zagata at 304-558-3200 or jzagata@wvda.us.



SUSTA TRADE MISSION

Commissioner Leonhardt spread the word about West Virginia agriculture during a recent trip halfway around the world. The Commissioner is president of SUSTA, or the Southern United States Trade Association. He and other SUSTA members visited Australia and New Zealand in late August and early September.

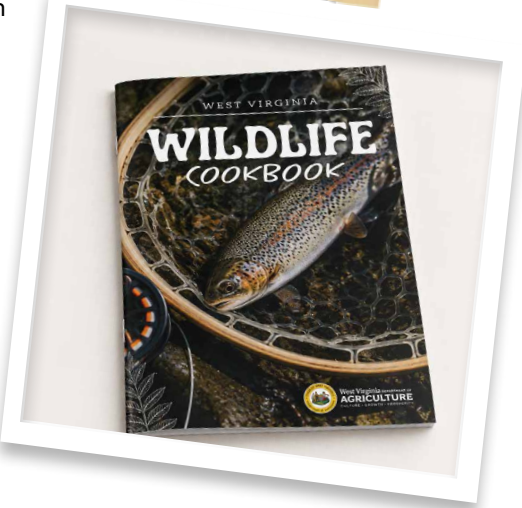


WINTER BLUES NORTH!

Applications are now being accepted for vendors who want to participate in Winter Blues North. The event will take place on December 12, at Mylan Park, in Morgantown. You can find the application at: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/events/winter-blues-morgantown/>. The deadline for vendor registration is October 23. The cost of a booth for this one-day event is \$125. This is a great opportunity for West Virginia agribusinesses to take advantage of the Christmas shopping season and market their products to new customers.

WV WILDLIFE COOKBOOK

The WVDA has teamed up with the WV Division of Natural Resources (DNR) to produce a West Virginia Wildlife Cookbook. From ramps to paw paws, venison to trout, this cookbook has mouthwatering recipes that feature Mountain State wildlife and foods you can forage. You can find a copy at <https://agriculture.wv.gov/>.



Growing a Better Tomorrow



TASTE OF APPALACHIA

The holidays are right around the corner. If you're looking for a creative and tasty gift for your favorite food, we have the perfect present – an Advantage Valley Taste of Appalachia gift box. This year there are six boxes to choose from: West Virginia Favorites, Breakfast Essentials, Snack Attack Gift Set, BBQ Essentials, Sweet and Salty Gift Set, and the Veteran-Made Gift Set. All the items are made right here in West Virginia and many of them come from WV Grown members. Last year, Advantage Valley sold 1,145 gift boxes and generated more than \$60,000 in direct revenue for participating agribusinesses. To shop for a gift box, go to www.tasteofappalachia.com.

WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

Southeast Region



► **Join the WV Grown Movement!**

Since 1986, WV Grown has been the proud heartbeat of West Virginia agriculture, helping thousands of farmers, growers, and food producers share their products not only across our state, but nationwide. Nearly four decades later, our mission is stronger than ever: to showcase the incredible pride and quality that is Rooted in the Mountain State. Whether you’re raising cattle, growing cucumbers, or producing specialty goods, the WV Grown logo tells buyers one thing loud and clear: that this product was made with care, right here at home. Every purchase strengthens our local economy and keeps West

Virginia thriving. Buying WV Grown makes each of our local producers stronger. With more than 600 members, retail partners, and supporting businesses already on board, now is the perfect time to add your name to the WV Grown family. Ready to grow with us? Contact our Business Development Division at 304-558-2210 or email wvgrown@wvda.us.

WV GROWN PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Ashley Butler

(office) 304-558-2210
(cell) 681-807-6019
abutler@wvda.us



“

Every agribusiness has a story, and I enjoy getting to know the people behind each one. Helping support their goals and bringing more local food into our communities is one of my favorite parts of this job.”

MAMA FAYE’S FUDGE & CONFECTIONS

MEMBER OF THE *Month*



Faye Dunford

Who: Mama Faye’s Fudge & Confections

Location: Lewisburg, WV

Products: Primarily fudge and other types of candy. Some of the items are as follows: peanut butter fudge, plain and chocolate with and without nuts, peanut butter cups, coconut macaroons, chocolate covered nuts, turtle, glazed pecans, gift baskets, etc.

Where to Buy: Tamarack, Beckley, Amy’s Market & Bella-The Corner Gourmet, Lewisburg, WV, WV State Fair, Arts & Crafts Shows, Winter Blues Farmers Markets and other events.

► **How they got started:**

I have made fudge most of my life. However, I created a special recipe for fudge and decided that I wanted to start a business and share it with others. I started the business October 1, 2021.

► **Future plans:**

Continue to make fudge and satisfy people’s craving for sweets.

► **Why join West Virginia Grown?**

I researched the program and liked the assistance they provided small businesses and decided to join the program. The program has been very supportive of my business, other small businesses, and farmers. I promote WV Grown to every business owner that isn’t a member. Many business owners haven’t heard of the program.



IN THE NEWS

- **Buffalo Trail Restaurant** and **Genesis Mountain Farm** have teamed up to bring you CBD-infused mocktails like the Shark Attack! If you’re searching for a refreshing non-alcoholic beverage, belly up to the bar at Buffalo Trail and ask for one.
- **Mountain Table Coffee** has something to celebrate. Their Bourbon Infused Coffee has been nominated for the WV Manufacturers Assoc. 2026 Coolest Thing Made in West Virginia. The folks at Mountain Table infuse their organic coffee with award-winning bourbon from The Bullock Distillery in Charleston. Congratulations!
- Retail updates: You can now find **Arbaugh Farm** products at **Kountry Korner** in Oak Hill. The Market Over Yonder, in Athens, is now carrying **Little Creek Bee Company** honey. And you can shop for **Wild Mountain Soap Co.** products at the Survival Ridge Trading Post, in Williamstown.

PUMPKINS WITH *a Purpose*

Cindi Cole was born and raised in West Virginia, but after living for years on the west coast, she returned right back where she started. Cole owns and operates Rosemary’s Pumpkins and Pines in Asbury, Greenbrier County, on 28 acres that shares a property line with her grandfather’s old farm.

“My grandfather, Lawrence Cole, was a vegetable peddler. He could grow anything. Kroger would bring their big trucks and park them at the farm and he would fill them with potatoes,” recalls Cindi. “He also grew corn, tomatoes, and berries. He would go to different towns and sell his produce. I got to go on one peddling trip when I was small. It was amazing to see all the women coming to see him. They’d say, ‘Mr. Cole! Mr. Cole! What do you have today?’”

That is the extent of Cindi’s farming background. Growing up she was more interested in sports than spuds.

“I went to school at Greenbrier East. I played sports. I started with baseball when I was eight and played with the guys until I was 18. I also loved basketball, volleyball, anything with a ball,” she says.

After graduation, she moved to Nashville and then to Oregon in 1989, where she worked for the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Oregon Department of Human Resources. That’s where she met her wife, Rosemary.

“She was kind, dedicated, and gentle. She was the one with the green thumb. She created beautiful yards in Oregon. People would come by just to see her flowers and plants. We didn’t have grass at one of our houses because she landscaped the whole thing,” Cindi reminisces.

But in 2005, a health crisis forced Cindi to retire.

“I was diagnosed with ocular melanoma, eye cancer. With that came flying to Philadelphia for treatments. I lost vision in my eye, and it took away the ability to do my job,” explains Cindi. “So, we decided to move to West Virginia. I just wanted to be in the mountains. I just needed to come home.”

The couple lived in Summersville for nearly a decade and then moved to Asbury when Cindi’s mom fell ill in 2019.

One thing she noticed about Asbury was the lack of pumpkin patches and Christmas tree farms. The couple were in the process of purchasing a property where they could build their forever home when Rosemary was diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia.

“We took a drive over to the property and looked around. Rosemary walked over to a spot that looked out over the valley and the mountains, and she put her foot down. She said, ‘Build the house right here facing this direction.’ I got the GPS coordinates, and we went back and talked to the owner and worked out a price,” Cindi says holding back tears.

Rosemary passed in 2023 before they were able to move. Not long after, Cindi sold her house, purchased a camper, and moved, along with her three dogs, to the farm. She says she feels Rosemary’s presence on every inch of the property and named the farm in her honor.

“Rosemary would have loved this,” Cindi says, looking out over the farm. “I named the farm after her because I couldn’t think of being at a place where her name wasn’t said.”

Needing something to keep her busy, Cindi planted a small test patch of pumpkins. She harvested 300.

“I knew that I could grow pumpkins on the farm, and I knew people would buy them. I didn’t need the money, but I did need a purpose. God and I had a few chats, and that’s when I came up with ‘Pumpkins for a Purpose,’” says Cindi.

In 2025, Cindi planted a large field of pumpkins – some Connecticut field, Dill’s Atlantic Giant, and Sweet Baby Jane. When they were ready to harvest, she invited the archery team from

Alderson Elementary to come to the farm on a Saturday.

“The kids came, had a bake sale, and customers took home pumpkins on a donation basis. We had a great time. It was so fun to hear the kids laughing. At the end of the day, the archery team took home 100% of the donations,” says Cindi. “The next weekend, the Humane Society did the same thing.

Another weekend, we raised money for a friend of mine whose son has cancer. The money went for him and his care.’

“I love kids. I never had children. Just watching kids in the patch...,” she says, welling up with tears. “It’s a blessing.”

This pumpkin season, the Eastern Greenbrier Middle School Girls Softball Team (10/4) and the Alderson Fast-pitch Association (10/10) will each have a pumpkin sale at the farm. Another Saturday, pumpkin sales will go toward a scholarship in honor of Karen Goodall (10/3), a former Greenbrier East educator and coach. And the Old Greenbrier

Centershot Archery Team (10/17) will have a Halloween Archery Shoot at the farm.

Meanwhile, just down the slope from the pumpkin patch are 475 Christmas trees planted over the past two years. It will take six or seven more years for them to mature, but when they do, the trees will have the same purpose as the pumpkins, raising money for local teams, charitable organizations, and worthwhile causes.

“I want to give back to the community that made me,” stresses Cindi.

The farm is still growing. Each year the pumpkin patch gets a little bigger, and Cindi would like to plant 3,000-plus Christmas trees in the coming years. She’s got a very full plate and that’s how she likes it.

“This is my happy place. This is my purpose. I’m very blessed to have all this,” she looks around with a smile.

To learn more about the farm and when the pumpkin patch will open for the season, check out Rosemary’s Pumpkins and Pines Facebook page.



MOUNTAIN STATE



National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office in cooperation with West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner | Alissa Cowell-Mytar, State Statistician

Reporter

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

- ▶ **Commercial red meat production** in West Virginia during July 2026 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 14 percent from July 2025.
- ▶ **Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 672,000 pounds live weight, down 11 percent from July 2025. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 78 pounds from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds.
- ▶ **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 129,000 pounds live weight, down 35 percent from July 2025. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from the previous year, at 275 pounds.

To look for West Virginia Statistics, visit our webpage: [USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - West Virginia](#)
Telephone: 1-304-357-5123 | Email: nass-wv@nass.usda.gov

CASH RECEIPTS

- ▶ The **2025 cash receipts** from farm marketings for all agricultural commodities in West Virginia totaled 1,179,471,000 dollars, an increase of 104.6 million dollars from 2024. Receipts from livestock and livestock products accounted for 80.1 percent of the State total. Cash receipts from crops accounted for 19.9 percent of the 2025 total.
- ▶ The largest contributor to the **agricultural marketings** in the State continues to be poultry and eggs. Cash receipts from the poultry industry, which includes broilers, eggs, turkeys, and farm chickens, accounted for 44.4 percent of the State total. The second leading contributor was cattle and calves which accounted for 28.9 percent of the total in 2025.
- ▶ Nationally, West Virginia ranked 30th for **cash receipts** from poultry and eggs. Broilers were the main contributor from poultry and eggs, accounting for 29.2 percent of cash receipts in the State, ranking 20th in the nation. Other highly ranked West Virginia commodities include farm chicken receipts at 10th in the nation, turkey receipts at 11th in the nation and maple products at 12th in the nation.

OCTOBER WVU GARDEN CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Plant winter cabbage in high tunnel Cure onions for storage	2 Turn compost Dig canna, dahlia, gladiolas and tubular begonias	3 Harvest green tomatoes and gourds before frost ☾ Last Quarter
4 Seed carrots for overwintering in high tunnel	5	6 Harvest and cure sweet potatoes	7 Divide perennials Harvest pumpkins and winter squash	8 Remove old crop residue and seed winter cover crop	9 Store winter squash in cool, dry location Plant multiplier or potato onions	10 Plant or transplant lilies that flower July 15 to Sept. 15 ☀ New Moon
11	12 Columbus Day Plant spring bulbs	13	14 Top Brussels sprouts to size up sprouts	15 Prepare landscape bed for spring planting	16 Plant or transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after leaves drop	17 Save wildflower seeds for spring planting
18 ☾ First Quarter	19 Mow lawn for last time Prune roses and root cuttings	20 Plant garlic	21 Seed spinach in cold frame or high tunnel	22 Take a fall soil test Mulch greens (chard, collards, etc.)	23 Plant mache in cold frame	24 Dig up dahlia tubers and place in cool storage area out of direct sunlight
25 Harvest fall Irish potatoes ☾ Full Moon	26	27 Turn compost	28	29	30	31 Halloween

There's No Place Like

Home



Jen Schleyer is a wife, mother of three, physical therapist, farmsteader, business owner, baker, chicken lady, goat wrangler, pig whisperer....and that's just a few of the hats she wears on a daily basis. She is a very busy woman, and she likes it that way.

The Raleigh, North Carolina native now calls Greenbrier County home. She and her husband Zach moved near White Sulphur Springs five years ago, buying 75-acres they now call Middle Mountain Farmstead. It's not somewhere she ever thought she'd be a decade ago.

"I went to school for physical therapy and have my doctorate in PT. I met Zach right as I was finishing school. We actually met coaching Cross Fit. We got married, bought a house in Raleigh, and eight months later, we decided we wanted to travel. We rented our house and went to California. I was working as a traveling PT for a while, and Zach was in school for engineering. We hung out there but felt something was missing," explains Jen. "We wanted more of a community. We wanted to be more grounded and close to family. So, we came home."

Jen landed a PT job in Covington, Virginia, in 2021, and the couple found a place to call home just over the state line in West Virginia.

"We were like, this place is beautiful! Living here, I was

able to have a job that paid well, the people were really nice, and the cost of living was affordable," says Jen.

While Zach was working on his engineering degree online, he read a book called Pasture Poultry Profits by Joel Salatin.

"Zach said to me, 'I think we need to get some chickens.' I thought, alright, let's do it."

They bought a few layers and the rest, as they say, is history.

Like most chicken owners, a few chickens are never enough. The couple decided to try their hand at meat chickens. That first year, they raised 25 Cornish Cross.

"I was very pregnant with Boone, our oldest, that summer. We were out here processing chickens trying to figure out how not to get chicken blood all over us," Jen laughs. "But after that first summer, we were hooked. It was so much fun to raise our own food. We could see such a difference in the quality of meat. We wanted to share that with others. We couldn't keep it to ourselves."

Zach decided to set aside his studies and farm full-time. "We were living the city mentality where we thought we needed two incomes," recalls Jen. "We were living beyond what we really needed. So, we simplified a bunch."

Zach and Jen were still new to the area and didn't know anyone to ask about the finer points of farmsteading and raising chickens, so they headed online. They watched a lot of videos of Joel Salatin and Justin Rhodes and learned about chicken production as they went. They also added hogs and goats to the farm. That meant fencing had to go up, sheds had to be built, and more work was crammed into the day.

"Starting your own business and taking care of living things are two very different things," Jen stresses. "Living on a farm, you go to bed and think, 'Oh crap! I forgot to turn the brooder light on' or 'Those chickens don't have any water!' You just never leave that mental spiral of I need to help these animals because they can't help themselves."

In 2023, the couple raised 100 birds and started selling

Year of the
Woman
Farmer



► At Middle Mountain Farmstead, the Schleyer family is building a life rooted in family, local food and a desire to grow together.



For Jen Schleyer, farming is a family affair. Her children are often right alongside her as she tackles the day-to-day work of raising poultry, pigs and goats on the farm.

Middle Mountain Farmstead chicken at the White Sulphur Springs and Lewisburg Farmers Markets. They offered whole birds and cuts, packaged and frozen. That first year, it took them all summer to sell what they had produced, but their customers loved the meat, and they gained a faithful following.

Along the way, the couple welcomed a second son, started selling their pasture-raised pork at the markets, and continued to ramp up the number of meat birds they raised, butchered, and sold. Jen cut back on her work hours to spend more time on the farmstead, but it was still a lot, not just physically but emotionally, as well.

“Having children really changes things. You want to be home with them. When I was at work, I was gone all day. Zach was home with the boys. I know a lot of people do the stay-at-home dad thing, but for us, it just didn’t seem like it was working. We felt like we never saw each other,” Jen says. “I wanted us to do things together, work together. At the time, I was doing home health PT, so I had a little bit of flexibility. I left at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning and got home about 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon. It wasn’t a terribly long day for me, but it was for Zach. He was taking care of the boys and trying to work the farmstead.”

In 2025, Jen and Zach welcomed their third baby and decided it was time to make a big change.

“We were getting close to when my maternity leave was supposed to be over. I had told my boss I’d let her know when I

would be coming back to work. She called one day, and I knew I couldn’t go back,” Jen explains. “Zach and I decided we’d do whatever we had to do to make it work. We wanted to work together, and that’s how we felt the happiest.”

In order to make it work, they knew they would have to scale up their poultry operation. They started out processing their birds in their yard but knew it wasn’t a long-term solution. Without outside income, the money just wasn’t there to build bigger and better. Jen knew they needed to find a funding source, and they got to work.

They wrote a grant proposal and received \$5,000 from the West Virginia Farmers Market Association to help build a new processing facility. Zach entered the annual WVDA Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture Pitch Competition and was awarded \$12,000 to purchase processing equipment to go in their new facility, along with a shipping container, with a CoolBot, to store their processed poultry. Jen entered the West Virgin-

ia Women in Ag Pitch Competition, sponsored by WVU Extension. Her pitch earned her \$2,500 to purchase smaller equipment and supplies for the facility.

“This will allow us to take back our personal space (the garage) and move the chicken processing and storage space down the hill. We’re building a barn where we can house everything. It will have the necessary hoses and drainage. We’ll also have a place to do some educational events and classes, in the future,” explains Jen.

Meanwhile, during the spring and summer of 2026, Jen and Zach raised and processed 1,000 birds.

“Growing up, our families shopped at the grocery store for the cheapest meats possible,” Jen says. “I remember at the Harris Teeter chicken breast was \$1.99 lb. We sell our chicken for \$5 lb. We think it is very reasonable for local birds raised on non-GMO feed. But I’m a people pleaser and was worried if folks were going to be willing to pay that price.”

She didn’t worry for long. “People like what we’re doing. People who can pay, do. We’ve had customers who don’t have a lot to spend, find a way. One of our customers set aside her tax return. She said, ‘Buying your chicken is very important to my family.’ She gives us a \$500 down-payment at the beginning of the summer to secure her meat, that way she won’t be tempted to spend the money on something else,” Jen says.

To process and package 1,000 birds, it was all hands on deck.

“This year, we did four processing weeks. We time it out so we can have chicks in the brooder for two to three weeks and then we put them out to pasture with our chicken

tractors. We process when the birds are eight weeks old. So, every five to six weeks we need to process,” says Jen.

Depending on the amount of birds they need to process, they sometimes have help from friends and family who come to assist.

When it comes to their pasture-raised pork, Jen and Zach work with a nearby business.

“With our pork, we have a partnership with Mountain Steer Meat Company, a meat processor right down the road. They do the processing and also have the freezer space to store our meat, which works out great. They make custom sausages with our pork – chorizo and bratwurst. They’re able to cure our bacon.”

Middle Mountain is currently supplying The General Lewis Inn, in Lewisburg, and Gustard’s Bistro, in White Sulphur Springs, with sausage and pork chops.

This fall, they’re raising and processing turkeys to sell for the holidays.

As for the future of the farmstead, Jen stresses the goal is not to super-size what they’re doing but rather scale up to a point where they feel comfortable with the quality and the quantity.

“We started farming so we could all be together. Right now, the kids are with us as we do our day-to-day work. The two oldest love to play and follow us around while we work. I usually have our youngest strapped to my back while I work,” Jen says with a smile. “We don’t just want to work our lives away, and we definitely don’t want to make our kids do that, either. So, our goal is to get to a sustainable point, which I feel will probably happen within the next three years. We plan to raise and process 2,000 birds in 2027 and expand to 3,000 the following years. We’d like to raise 50-60 pigs, max. We want to stay small and tight.”

As for the bottom line, Jen stresses they don’t need or want fancy cars or a big house.

“It’s not about money. It’s about quality of life. We want to live simply. Right now, we’re barely making any money. We’re putting what we do earn back into the business, and we are completely happy. We have everything we need. We have high-quality food that we’re raising. What we don’t grow or raise, we barter for at the farmers market.”

So, does she miss her old life? Not a chance.

“There’s nowhere else I’d rather be. I know 100% this is the path God has given me and graced me with,” Jen says as she looks out across the farm. “I can’t imagine any other way I’d want to live my life than getting to spend it alongside my family.”

Middle Mountain Farmstead is a member of WV Grown. You can learn more about their farmstead and their products on their Facebook page and online at <https://mmfarmstead.com/>.

SWIGER RUNS *for* NATIONAL FFA OFFICE

Miyah Swiger, a former West Virginia FFA Northcentral Region Vice President (2024/2025) and State Secretary (2025/2026), hopes to add a new title to her resume this fall – National FFA officer. Swiger and 40 other FFA leaders from across the country will take part in a rigorous interview process before and during the upcoming National FFA Convention being held in Indianapolis, Oct. 21-24. The 21-year-old from Bridgeport joined FFA during her sophomore year of high school and calls the organization her “safe space.” She’s spent the past few months since she was selected to represent West Virginia honing her interview, speech, and media skills.

“I didn’t grow up on a farm. For me, it was important to make sure I was learning about all types of agriculture. I’m doing a lot of interviews with different farmers and agriculturists, so I can better my agricultural literacy,” she stressed. Earlier this year, Swiger represented West Virginia FFA at the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILS-SO). She traveled to Spain with 74 other FFA officers, visiting farms and agribusinesses across that country and learning about their leadership styles. We wish Miyah the best of luck in Indianapolis!





WV EXTENSION

SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 23-24, 2026

Women in Agriculture Conference

WVU Campus Morgantown, West Virginia

In Morgantown!

Winter Blues North Farmers Market

Applications NOW Open!

December 12th 12:00pm - 5:00pm

111 Mylan Park Lane Morgantown, WV 26501

WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

West Virginia Department of AGRICULTURE

WV EXTENSION

WV AGRIBUSINESS FALL FARMS

Black Cat Pumpkin Patch - **Morgantown**
Brookedale Farm - **Fort Ashby**
Butcher Family Farm - **Washington**
Cherry Brook Farm - **Mount Storm**
Cody's Pumpkin Patch - **New Cumberland**
Cooper Family Farms - **Milton**
Cunningham Place Greenhouse - **Upper Tract**
CW's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch - **Cass**
Edge of Town Farm Market - **Bridgeport**
Green Acres Farm - **Rock Cove**
Gritt's Farm - **Buffalo**
The Hanna Farmstead - **Gap Mills**
Hazel Run Flower Farm - **Bruceton Mills**
Higson's Farm - **Wiley Ford**
Horseshoe Heaven on Smith Farm - **Scott Depot**
MJW Farm - **Burlington**
Okes Family Farms - **Cool Ridge**
Old McDonald's Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze - **Inwood**
Orr's Farm Market - **Martinsburg**
Pappy Jack's Pumpkin Patch - **Shinnston**
Rosemary's Pumpkins and Pines - **Asbury**
Seeds of Grace Acres - **Augusta**

Sunny Pointe Corn Maze - **Jane Lew**
Sunset Berry Farm - **Alderson**
Sunset View Farms - **Ballard**
Synder Farms - **Huttonsville**
The Patch at Norman Farms - **Lost Creek**
The Pumpkin Patch - **Spencer**
Town & Country Nursery - **Kearneysville**
Wild Goats Farm - **Clarksburg**

Want to be added to our list?
Contact Agritourism@wvda.us | wvgrown@wvda.us or 304-558-2210



CIDER-BRAISED BISON SHORT RIBS

► RIFFLE FARMS

LIZ RIFFLE | [HTTPS://WWW.RIFFLEFARMS.COM/](https://www.rifflefarms.com/)

When the air turns crisp and apple orchards are bursting, nothing says fall comfort like slow-braised short ribs. This dish pairs the deep richness of bison (or beef) with the bright tang of apple cider for a rustic, melt-in-your-mouth meal that feels both hearty and elegant. Perfect for Sunday suppers or impressing guests on a chilly October evening.

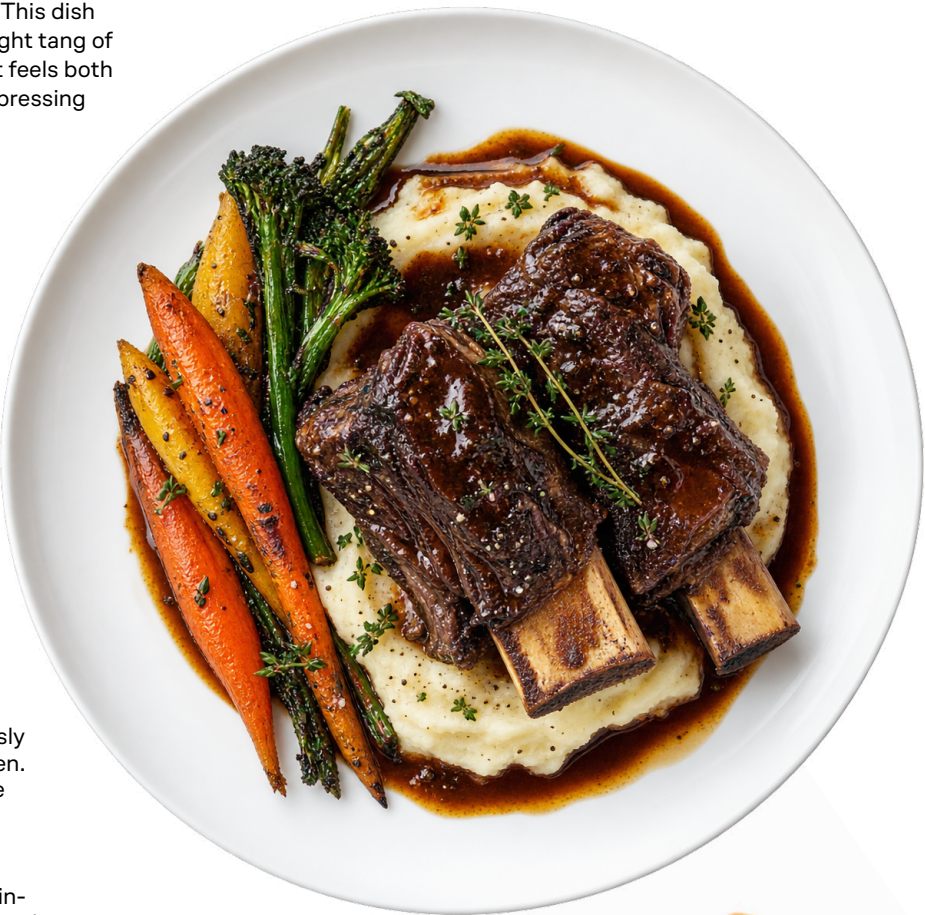
INGREDIENTS

- 4 lbs. bison short ribs or osso buco
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 cups apple cider (fresh pressed if possible)
- 1 cup beef or bison broth
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Prep the ribs by patting dry and season generously with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in a Dutch oven. Sear ribs on all sides until golden brown. Remove and set aside.
2. Add onions, carrots, and garlic to the pot. Sauté until softened and fragrant. Pour in apple cider vinegar, scraping up browned bits. Add apple cider and broth, stirring well.
3. Return ribs to the pot, tuck in thyme and bay leaves, cover tightly, and braise at 325 degrees for two and a half to three hours, until fork-tender.
4. Discard thyme stems and bay leaves. Plate ribs over creamy mashed potatoes or polenta. Spoon the cider jus generously over top.

*Pair with a bold red wine, like Cabernet Franc, which balances the sweetness of the cider, or with a malty brown ale or pumpkin-spiced seasonal brew.



ATTENTION!



If you're a West Virginia agribusiness with a **holiday event**,
OR have a **Christmas tree farm**, let us know!
We want to tell folks all about it!

CONTACT THE WVDA AT AGRITOURISM@WVDA.US WITH YOUR INFORMATION.



OCTOBER 2026

CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **To submit an ad:**
Phone: 304-558-2225
Fax: 304-558-2270
Email: marketbulletin@wvda.us
Mail: 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E.
Charleston, WV 25305

November 2026. . .

Phone-In ads for the **November** issue must be received by **12 noon** on **Monday, October 12.**
Written ads for the **November** issue must be received by **1 p.m.** on **Tuesday, October 13.**

December 2026. . .

Phone-In ads for the **December** issue must be received by **12 noon** on **Monday, Nov. 9.**
Written ads for the **December** issue must be received by **1 p.m. on,Tuesday, Nov. 10.**

To subscribe to *The Market Bulletin*,
email marketbulletin@wvda.us
or call 304-558-3708.

Apiary Events

Barbour Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 4th* Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Barbour Co. Fairgrounds in metal quonset hut, Contact Dave Hunt, 304-844-0702.
Cabell/Wayne Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Bi-Monthly Meetings, 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,* Jan/March/May/July/Sept./Nov., Contact John Marra, 304-617-6981.
Clay Co. Beekeepers Assoc., Contact Mark Davis, 304-651-3002; claycobeekeepers@gmail.com.
Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.,* Kearneysville Research, Education & Outreach Center, Contact, Linda Layne, 201-819-7497; llayne53@gmail.com.
Fayette Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, last* Monday, 6:00 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 401 W. Maple Ave., Contact Rick Forren, 304-539-1303.
Harrison Co. Beekeepers, *Discussion Group,* Contact Larry Forinash 304-669-5410; lforinash1@gmail.com
Kanawha Valley Beekeepers Assoc., *Bi-Monthly Meeting,* Contact Rick Armstrong, 304-553-1923.
Marion Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Meeting, 4th Thursday,* 6 p.m., Eldora United Methodist Church, Contact Contact Deb Hockenberry, 304-612-4327.
Monongalia Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.,* WVU Ext. Office, 270 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown, Contact Kevin Hart, kevin.hart@moncountybeekeepers.org.
Mountaineer Beekeepers Assoc., *Bi-Monthly Meeting, 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,* City Bldg. on School Rd, Contact Patrick O'Connell, occonnellpatrick0370@gmail.com.
Mountaineer Beekeepers Assoc., *Discussion Meeting, 4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m.,* Doddridge Co. Library, downstairs meeting room, Union, Contact Patrick O'Connell, occonnellpatrick0370@gmail.com.
Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.,* Romney Firehouse Center,

High St., Downtown Romney, Contact Kirby Vining, 202-213-2690; secretary.phba@gmail.com.
Preston Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 3rd Thursday, WVU Ext. Office, Kingwood, Contact Scott Lewis, 304-376-0453.*
Southeastern Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 1st Monday, 6:00 p.m.,* Ascend Bldg., 744 Court St., Lewisburg, Contact Rick Forren, 304-539-1303.
Upshur Co. Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.,* Upshur Co. Farm Bureau Bldg. on Rt. 33 between Buckhannon & Weston, terriobennett@gmail.com.
West Central Beekeepers Assoc., *Monthly Meeting, 4th Saturday, 1 p.m.,* Two Runs Community Bldg., Two Runs.

All bee colonies must be registered with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.
Please contact the Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.

Apiary Sales

Honeybees, 10-frame hives/supers, \$400/ea.; nuc hive, \$120; 2-frame honey extractor, \$100; 6-frame motorized honey extractor, \$500; used frames, \$1/ea.; used supers, \$10; more. Clarence Dawson, 436 Durham St., Sistersville, 26175; 304-401-3128.

Cattle Sales

Reg. Hereford 8-mo. heifer, Rev 4R blood, nice, \$2,800. Roger Casto, 837 Radcliffe Run Rd., Mineral Wells; 304-489-1696.
Reg. Limousin, Lim-flex, and Angus breeding-age bulls, passed BSE, vaccinated, GE EPD's and perform. info avail., calm disp., \$5,000. Kim Getz, 122 Dolly Hill Rd., Scherr, 26726; 304-749-8043; ralimousin@frontiernet.net.
Pure Black Angus heifers, 12, 6 are '24 calves & 6 '25 calves. \$30,000/ all or \$3,000/ea. Mark Humphreys, 7217 Indian Mills Road, Peterstown, 24963; 304-753-9990.
Reg. Red Angus 6/26 bull, \$1,800. Mark Jochum, 39 Farmers Loop Rd., Sistersville 26175; 304-401-3438.
Reg. Black Angus Fall '25 bulls & hieifers, Veracious/GAR Hometown/Rito blood, calving ease gentics, \$3,500/up. J. Taylor, 875 Jim Kennedy Rd., Fairmont, 26554; 681-270-0763.
Mini Jersey 11-mo. bull, polled, easy to handle, \$2,500. Amanda Stewart, Ken Snyder Rd., Tunnelton, 26444 304-282-2177; amandabstewart@gmail.com.

Equipment Sales

No trucks, cars, vans, campers or other autos; backhoes (except 3-pt. hitch); dozers or other construction equipment; lawn equipment; no parts.
DR Pro 26 brush cutter w/14.5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine, P/S & 26" cutting width, cuts grass up to 8' tall & brush up to 2 1/2" thick, \$2,500/obo. Dale Archer, Rockport, WV 26169; 304-482-8770.

Hesston tractor, Braxton Co., 4 wet lines, excel. cond., \$6,000. Ronald Brown, P.O. Box 87, Burnsville, 26335; 304-678-8420; 304-678-8014.
Massey-Harris '51 pony tractor w/59"mower deck, \$2,000. Bill Buda, 36 Giuliana Rd., Reedsville; 26547; 304-980-2684.
Kubota BX front-end loader, new cond., \$1,550; 50" snow blower (fits all BX series with a quick hitch & PTO kit, good cond., \$1,550; 54" mower deck \$750, new blades/belt; and chains to fit BX 1860 with bar tires, \$50; HB Christian, 362 Crossroads Rd, Wana, 26590; 304-692-0756.
Brush hog, medium-duty 6' for skid steer, 1 year old, \$1,800. Eric Cunningham, 2862 Stewartstown Road, Morgantown, 26508; 304-282-5194.
Kubota L3240 tractor, 4WD w/loader, backhoe & awning, 1,836 hours, stored dry, \$18,000.00/obo. Gary Elmore, 2523 Charles Booth Road, Sinks Grove, 24976; 304-667-8254.
Mahindra '18 compact tractor, emax 205 w/250 hrs., 54" mower deck, new rear blade, \$10,500. Kenneth Fitzgerald, 125 Real Leaf Dr., Rock Cave, 26234; 304-924-5893.
Tractor, 8N w/side mower, \$1,500. 8N tractor, new tires, runs great, \$2,500. Sam Gaskins 1144 Gaskins Hollow Road, Salem; 26426; 304-669-3858.
Hay tedder, 3-point hitch, two-basket, \$400. Dwight Hoffman, Seven Springs Farm, 7976 Blue Lick Rd., Greenville, 24945; 540-726-7577.
Tar river drum mower, 165 5.5 ft cut, used 2 seasons. \$2,800. Adam Hunt, 294 Stonewall Rd., Beckley, 25801; 731-9924; adamh360@icloud.com.
JD 820, 3-cyl. disel tractor, mechanical steering, \$2,500. Edwin Kissinger, 3128 Little Stoney Creek Rd., Ballard, 24918; 304-466-4840.
Farmall BN 2-seat tractor, good tires, excel. cond., \$3,000/firm. Mike Keller, 217 Walter Street, Ripley, 25271; 304-372-3917; 304-514-9711.
Hay tedder, pull-behind, 2-basket, \$750; Ferguson double-bottom plow, \$350; '57 International B-250 diesel tractor, \$1,500; '67 JD 1010 tractor w/4 cyl. gas eng., P/S, good tires/paint, \$2,500. Robert King, 325 Robert Lane, Evans, 25241; 304-532-4790.
Int'l: TD9 w/gear wench, \$14,500; 6½' disc, 3-pt. hitch, \$2,750; MF 6' sickle bar mower, \$2,850; bush hog, 5', \$1,450; horse drawn plow, corn planter & potato plow, \$325/ea.; Western 8½' plow, \$1,850. Ron Malus, 3445 Snake Run Rd., Alderson, 24910; 304-392-5231.
JD 25 combine, shed kept, new canvas/belts & comes w/manual, \$2,500. Garr Philpott, PO Box 44, Robson, 25173; 304-779-2070.
King Kutter, 6', 3-pt hitch tiller, \$1,500. 6' King Kutter finish mower, 3-pt hitch, \$1,100. Craig Powers, 8595 Kentuck Road, Gandeeville, 25243; 540-814-1363.
New Holland 513 manure spreader, single beater, fines pan, very good cond., \$3,500/obo. Randall Rumer, 295 Caraway Ln., Renick, 24966; 304-646-2084
Zetor tractor, 3 attachments, hay picker, bucket & road grader, \$11,000/obo. Donna Samples, 1272 Green Knoll Dr. S. Charleston 25309; 681-385-8126.

Salsco 627XY chipper, 45 hp min., kept inside, new cond., made in USA, extra set of new blades, \$6,000; Disk harrow, model 55, Athens list type tandem, 7', 20" diameter disk, heavy duty, good cond., 4-60 hp, \$2,500. Bill Schilkowski, 218 Harvest Grove Ln., Dunmore, 24934; 304-456-4197.
Ferguson Sherman 3-pt. hitch dbl. plow, model 14A, \$450; 3-pt. hitch potato plow, \$125; 5' 3-pt. hitch disc, \$500; quick attach round hay bale spear, for front-end loader, excel. cond., \$375; 3-pt hitch carry-all frame, \$175; 6' 3-pt. hitch grader blade, \$300. Charles Smith, 310 Dry Fork Road, Heaters, 26627; 304-641-4472.
MF '22 2606H tractor w/bucket/spear, 65hp, 4WD, 13 hours, \$35,000. Bonnie Taylor, PO Box 253, Montcalm, 24737; 304-589-5300.
NH 310 sq baler w/model 70 bale thrower, \$3,500; Niemeyer Conical; fertilizer spreader, \$1,000; all metal manure spreader; IH Model; 1 or 2, shed stored, \$500. Rick Wooddell, 38 Wooddell Ln., Green Bank; 304-456-5416.

Equipment Wants
Zentrac Model 3400Y for parts. Neal Smith, 605 Genteel Ridge Rd., Wellsburg, 26070; 304-737-2838.
Handle for a JD 1B floor model corn sheller w/round hole/clutch in handle; sifter for 14" Williams stone burr mill; loader(s) for a 4010 or 4510 JD complete tractor. Harold Farnsworth, 38 Trainer Rd., Buckhannon 26201; 304-940-0994;

Farm Sales
Lease/Share: Upshur Co., approx. 110-acre farm near Rock Cave with 4-BR farmhouse, approx. 40 acres hay meadow, pasture/woodland, approx. 10 acres fenced, well water, barn / outbuildings, seeking experienced farming family for long-term arrangement, livestock/crops welcome, flexible lease, farm-share, crop-share or livestock-share terms, owner retains ownership. Barbara Wilson; bjwilsonmd@gmail.com.; 832-247-2162.

Goat Sales
Saanens 9/2-7/26 1 doeling \$450, bucklings, \$300/ea., ADGA, CDT, disbudded, near Milton. Ashley Burns, 45 Valley View Farm, West Hamlin, 25571; 304-356-8132.

Poultry Sales
Red star pullets, 22 weeks, now laying, \$15/ea. Max High, 8508 Patterson Creek Rod., Lahmansville, 26731; 304-851-0401.
Bobwhite quail, males, \$12/ea.; females, \$10/ea. Edwin Kissinger, 3128 Little Stoney Creek Rd., Ballard, 24918; 304-466-4840.

Sheep Sales
Hamp./Suffolk 3/23 ram, \$450. Kevin Jones, 1039 Range Rd., Wadestown, 26590; 304-476-1247.
Pure Dorset ram \$600, 2 Dorset/Suffolk cross rams \$450/ea. Kim Kellison 3937 Butler Mountain Rd, Renick, 24966; 304-661-1387.
Dorper Kei banded male 5-mo. sheep, \$300. Thurman Speece, 285 Lazear Wilhelm Rd., Wheeling, 26003; 304-280-9042.
Katahdin/Dorper 6-mo. cross ram lambs, black w/dark hooves. CD&T vaccinations current, parasite resistant, \$250/ea. Jeremy Vance, 827 Guy Dice Road, Harman, 26270; 304-704-7667

Miscellaneous Sales

No riding habits or other clothes; appliances or furniture; antiques or crafts; hand power tools or equipment; food processing or preservation items or equipment; general wood working tools; firewood. Only dogs recognized by the AKC will be accepted.
Hay, sq. bales out of barn, \$6/ea.; round bales, 4x5, \$35/ea. Bob Alexander, 5059 Plain Valley Rd., Letart 25253; 304-544-7690.
Trailer, 31' w/air brakes \$600.00. Jim Corder, 3841 Freedom Hwy., Fairmont, 26554; 304-365-4239.
FREE to good home, 2 sable-and-white 7-yr, Lassie-type collies, 1 male/1 female. Kevin Cummings, 110 Walnut Street, Evans, 25241; 304-372-8615.
Air compressor, LeROI 185, pull-type w/144 hours, comes w/2 jackhammers, 3 bits, 2 hoses, and an air drill with a lot of steel, stored dry, \$10,000/obo; feed troughs,5, 8-foot concrete. \$225/ea. Gary Elmore, 2523 Charles Booth Rd., Sinks Grove, 24976; 304-667-8254.
Stone commmeal grinder, belt driven, \$15. David Hickman 3582 Canvas Nettie Rd., Canvas, 26662; 304-880-8304.
Metal barrels w/lids, 55-gal., food grade, \$25/ea. Kory runnin gears hay wagon, 18', 10-ton, steel beams, slide tongue, \$3,000. Max High 8508 Patterson Creek Rd., Lahmansville, 26731; 304-851-0401.
Trailer, '94 4-Star horse, all aluminum, slant load w/drop-down windows on the head side/ sliding windows on the rear side, rear tack collapsible/removable, extra-large dressing room/ fully carpeted, purchased new at the Qtr. Horse Congress, kept inside., lights/brakes/tires good, working cond., \$11,500/obo. Dwight Hoffman, Seven Springs Farm, 7976 Blue Lick Road, Greenville, 24945; 540-726-7577.
Kettle, apple butter w/stand & stirrer, \$800. Mary Holyfield, 269 Kane Town Road, Tunnelton, 26444; 304-892-3291.

Pasture & Hayfield Spraying
Herbicides, liquid fertilizers, lime & soil sampling
Contact, Dennis Burns, 304-646-2779.

Antique Engine & Tractor Assoc.
Heron Festival
Oct. 10; 9 a.m.
Beech Fork State Park,
Barboursville
Contact Kathy Johnson,
304-545-5268

WVDA
BUG BUSTERS
Send a photo of the pest with your name and contact info to bugbusters@wvda.us or call 304-558-2212.

Grain elevator, 16', electric motor, runs well, \$650; copper apple butter kettle, 30-gallon, with stirrer and stand, good condition, \$550. Mark Humphreys, 7217 Indian Mills Road, Peterstown, WV 24963; 304-753-9990.
Hay, '25 1st cut 4 x 4 round bales, stored in barn. \$30/ea. Allen Miller 946 Cuzzart Mtn Dale RD Bruceton Mills; 26525; 379-9717.
ASDR/CKC Aust. Shepherd pups, blue merle & black tri, males/females, tails docked & wormed, vaccines. merles, \$600; black tri, \$500, Vicki Mitchem, 229 Stoney Creek Scool Rd., Alderson, 24910; 304-5756036.
Hay, 1st cut, \$4.50/bale, good feed for anything. Don Mollahan, 4808 Servia Elmira Rd., Sutton, 25063; 304-364-8707.
Hay, 4x5' round bales, \$30/ea., call, leave a message or text. Brian Moore, 114 Springwater Lane, Chester; 304-374-1672.
Hay, large sq. bales, easy access, fert., good for all livestock, \$6/bale. Larry Parsons, 276 Maple Drive, Evans, 25241; 304-372-4575.
Hay, 4X5' round bales, \$30/bale. Douglas Randolph, 23167 Ripley Rd., Leon, 25123; 304-674-5267.
Hay, 4x5 round bales, net-wrapped, mixed grass, limed/fertilized, \$40/bale. Adam Reckart, 603 Cuzzart Rd., Bruceton Mills, 26525; 304-379-6708.
Ear corn, \$6/bushel; bring boxes or feed sacks; call for availability. Al Ruggles, 131 Ruggles Orchard Rd., Levels, 25431; 304-492-5751.

Miscellaneous Wants

Jerusalem artichokes and persimmon trees. Jay Bierce, 6515 Waynesburg Pike Rd. Moundsville, 26041; 304-780-8033.
Multiplier for walking onions, perineal with bulbs on top. Donna McKenery, 5355 Dans Run Rd., Springfield, 26763; 304-298-4590.

ONLINE GRAZING SCHOOL AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS AND AGENCY PROFESSIONALS
Learn at your pace at our FREE Online Grazing School & utilize other great resources

Video learning modules on the topics of soil health, grazing techniques, nutrient management and forages.
<http://grazingprofessionals.us>

New Videos Out Now!
Virtual fence, agricultural drone services, and woody weed control





THE MARKET BULLETIN
WV Department of Agriculture
Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner
1900 Kanawha Blvd East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170
OCTOBER 2026

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 80
Charleston, WV 25301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN OUR
Market Bulletin List!

Subscribe to the WVDA Market Bulletin
to get the latest news and updates.

marketbulletin@wvda.us or 304-558-3708
Both electronic and print subscriptions available.



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER, KENT A. LEONHARDT



Articles in this publication may be reprinted, with the exception of advertisements, when a credit by-line is given to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. The use of trade names in this publication is for purposes of clarity and information only. No endorsement is made or implied of any product, or is it implied that similar products are less effective. Statement of Policy Regarding Equal Opportunity and Participation in Programs: It is the policy of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to provide its services and programs to all persons without regard to sex, race, color, age, religion, national origin or handicap.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Beth Southern • EDITOR: Jennifer Smith Poling • Designer: Brooke Francke • Contributor: Carrie Kirk