West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER KENT A. LEONHARDT

THE MARKET Bulletin

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NOVEMBER 2026

Telling the story of **West Virginia Agriculture**

At veteran-owned Devil's Due Distillery (Jefferson County), American pride, agricultural tradition and craftsmanship come together to celebrate the spirit of West Virginia.

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



From the Commissioner

When you think about foreign trade, West Virginia agriculture isn't the first thing that pops to mind. While out trade dollars aren't huge like many states, we make a difference in the policy world and set the example for in-bound trade missions to our forestry industries.

Eighteen months ago, my peers elected me to lead the Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA). SUSTA is one of four regional trade groups, partially funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, focused on agricultural trade. At the start of my term, the U.S. agriculture trade deficit was $50 billion. As a nation, we have to cut that deficit in half.

At the end of August and into September, I took our SUSTA board members to Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, we were part of the U.S. Trade Mission and Trade Show. Food processors were having a tremendous show, and I am happy to report the U.S. is close to a trade deal for apples. Anytime we can send U.S. apples abroad, it helps our producers.

I also identified a potential in-bound trade opportunity for West Virginia forestry, modeled after our successful visit last March by timber buyers from India and Vietnam. We are planning a visit as I write this to have buyers from Australia and New Zealand visit West Virginia and other southern states. More to come, hopefully.

During the last week of September, I was part of the U.S. delegation to the Tri-National Agriculture Accords in Calgary, Canada. We met with our counter parts, ministers of agriculture from Canadian Provinces and secretaries of agriculture of Mexican states. There were also industry group representatives from all three countries.

As you know, there is a lot of tension in trade negotiations, as we hope to renew the United States/Mexico/Canada Agreement. I am happy to report the agriculture leaders from all three countries agree with getting our leaders back to the table and agriculture goods need to be free trade and left out of the tariff wars.

I am proud that the final communique being sent to the three nation's leaders included my language that "food security is national security." We have to get the negotiations back on track, and we need to recognize that feeding our continent depends on all of us working together. You never know when we will need each other to get through shortages caused by things like drought or foreign animal diseases. We'll keep you informed.

I am so proud of the West Virginia agriculture community and the opportunity to represent you on the international stage.

Kent A. Leonhardt

Commissioner of Agriculture
Kent A. Leonhardt

WVDA NEWS

Growing a Better Tomorrow

FARM 2 SCHOOL MONTH



October was Farm 2 School Month and West Virginia students made the most of it with fun activities and delicious, local food. Mrs. Austin's 3rd grade class at Southside Elementary (Cabell Co.) grew their own lettuce in a hydroponic, self-sustaining garden. They shared the fruits of their labor with the cafeteria so all grades could get a taste. Meanwhile students at A.I. Boreman and Sistersville Elementary Schools (Tyler Co.) participated in a farmers market simulation where they learned about purchasing local, healthy food. Each student took home a bag with WV Grown and WV made products.



FARM MUSEUM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The State Farm Museum is lighting up for the holidays! The annual Holiday Light Show runs December 3-23, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. daily. Bring the kids to meet Santa Thursday-Sunday. Drive through the grounds surrounded by holiday displays and more than two million twinkling lights. Admission is free, but donations to support the non-profit museum are appreciated. The Farm Museum is located in Mason County at 1458 Fairground Rd., Pt. Pleasant.



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.



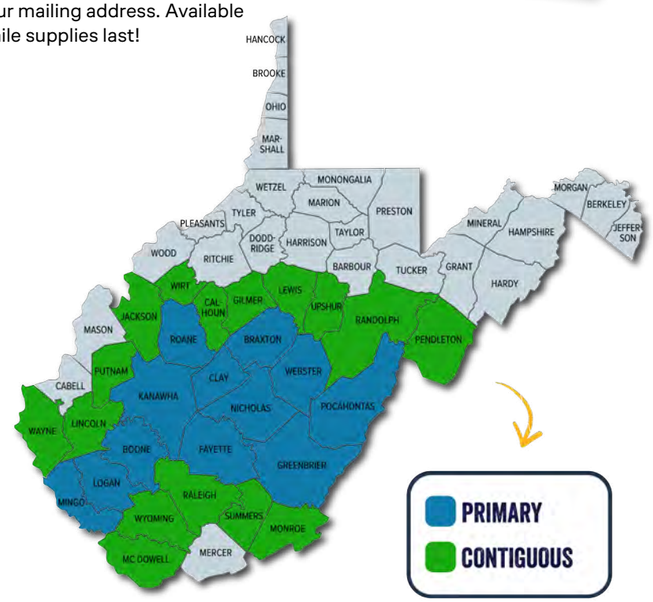
WVDA JOB OPENINGS

Want a career in agriculture? The WVDA is hiring! We're more than just cow and plows. Whether you have a degree in chemistry or marketing, animal science or accounting, the WVDA is looking for hard-working, dedicated employees to join our team in a variety of different positions. To find our updated employment opportunities list, go to: https://wvda.applicantstack.com/x/openings.

A GUIDE TO A MOUNTAIN STATE CHRISTMAS

If you're ready to jingle all the way through the holidays, we have a (FREE) new guide to make things merry and bright. The Guide to a Mountain State Christmas is filled with festive farms and holiday events to add to your calendar. From choose and cut Christmas tree farms to yuletide festivals, there's something for everyone whether you live in Wheeling or Welch, Charles Town or Charleston. To request a copy, send an email to Agritourism@wvda.us with your mailing address. Available while supplies last!





DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The USDA has designated 12 WV counties as disaster areas due to losses caused by drought conditions beginning April 21. Sixteen additional counties have been named contiguous disaster areas. To find out if you're eligible for federal assistance, contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. For more info, go to: https://agriculture.wv.gov/.../drought-assistance-resources/

WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

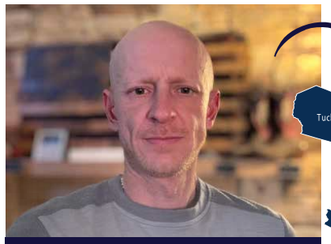
Eastern Panhandle

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





Nathan Bergdoll

(office) 304-558-2210
(cell) 304-703-5575
nbergdoll@wvda.us

"From pinpointing potential funding opportunities and guidance on rules and regulations, to identifying market channels and assisting collaborative partnerships, I take great pride in working with our farmers and producers-not only to strengthen their own individual operations but also to enhance our collective impact on local food systems and the communities we serve."



NICOLE'S NATURAL BEEF & PORK

MEMBER OF THE *Month*



Nicole Fansler

Who: Nicole Fansler

Location: Mathias (Hardy County)

Products: Beef & pork (custom cuts), tallow lotions and salves, dog treats

Where to Buy: Direct from the farm, H & T Market (Lost City), Facebook

How they got started:
My family is deeply rooted in agriculture. They've been farming here since the early 1800s. My grandfather gave me my first beef cow when I was four years old. It's been my dream to have a successful cattle operation and prove to everyone I could do it. After I graduated from college, I started out setting up my own commercial poultry business. Then I added beef cattle and spent time perfecting their genetics. I started a livestock order business, procuring cattle from WV and VA and sending them to the mid-West feed lots. I talked to a lot of folks about how they liked their cattle finished, and I started finishing cattle of my own. In 2020, I began selling my beef and pork for retail markets.

Future plans:
I want to continue to expand. I'd love to add a retail store location here on the farm, some type of farm market. Not only do I want to display and sell my products, I want to showcase products from other farms in this area and help them reach new customers.

Why join West Virginia Grown?
When I first saw the WV Grown logo, it gave me a great sense of pride. I wanted to share that. We have a lot of out-of-state visitors. I'm only six miles from the Virginia border. We get a lot of folks who come through our area from D.C. and northern Virginia. I think it's meaningful to promote agriculture products from West Virginia.

IN THE NEWS

- Mark Nov. 28 on your calendar! **Kitchen's Farm Market** will be holding their annual Holidays at the Farm Market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (1025 Kitchen's Orchard Rd., Falling Waters). Stop by for holiday sales and gift baskets, including fresh pressed apple cider and just-made donuts. This is the perfect opportunity to support a WV Grown business on Small Business Saturday!

- Congratulations Marsha Waybright of **Laurel Fork Farm**! She was honored last month as a 2026 West Virginia Wonder Woman by West Virginia Living Magazine. Marsha operates a 400-acre family farm and has turned it into an award-winning agritourism and educational destination. She is a 2023 recipient of the WV Women in Agriculture Award.

WVDA Veterans & Heroes to Agriculture Program Continues to Assist Farmers in the Agriculture Arena



The West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program helps veterans and first responders find new opportunities in agriculture through education, funding, and hands-on support.

Established in 2014, the program received legislative funding in 2018 and expanded in 2020 to include emergency response personnel, firefighters, and law enforcement officers. Originally known as Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture, the program was renamed to reflect its broader mission.

One of its most popular initiatives is the annual pitch competition at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, where members compete for funding to start or expand agricultural operations. Funding for FY2027 has increased to $80,000, with applications opening Dec. 1, 2026.

The program also offers scholarships of up to $600 per person for members and their spouses to attend agriculture- or business-related courses, including WVU Extension's Master Gardener Program, the West Virginia Small Farm Conference, and cattle industry certification programs. Beginning farmers can also receive one-on-one assistance with business planning, property evaluations and developing their operations.

Leading these efforts are Program Manager Nick Dayton and Program Assistant Calvin Grimm, two military veterans who bring personal experience and a shared commitment to helping others succeed.

For Dayton, the program's mission is personal. Originally from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2014 as a Cryptologic Technician Technical (CTT), serving aboard the USS Gravely (DDG-107) and with IWTG Norfolk, in Virginia.

After leaving the Navy in 2020, Dayton and his wife, Melissa, moved to West Virginia in 2021 and purchased Oakridge Farm in Romney. As a member of Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture, Dayton experienced firsthand how the program could help him grow his farming operation. When the Program Manager position became available, he welcomed the opportunity to give back to the organization that had supported his agricultural journey.

Working alongside Dayton is Program Assistant Calvin Grimm, who joined WVDA in 2026. Originally from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Grimm moved to West Virginia during high school and graduated from Capital High School in 2003.

He served four years in the U.S. Air Force as a military intelligence analyst, including a tour during the Iraq War with U.S. Special Operations Command and service with Air Force Space Command.

Following his military service, Grimm worked as a defense consultant before earning his bachelor's degree from West Virginia State University. He later pursued filmmaking, directing, and producing documentaries, commercials, and films, many focused on military and veteran experiences.

A lifelong gardener and active member of veteran service organizations, Grimm brings together his interests in agriculture and veteran outreach to help others pursue their farming goals.

Together, Dayton and Grimm are carrying forward the program's mission of helping those who have served their country and communities build new futures in agriculture.

To learn more or apply, visit agriculture.wv.gov/ag-business/veterans-and-heroes-to-agriculture/ or email vetstoag@wvda.us.

MOUNTAIN STATE Reporter

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

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

- **Commercial red meat production** in West Virginia during August 2026 totaled 800,000 lbs. This was up 8% from August 2025.
- **Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 917,000 lbs. live weight, up 13% from August 2025. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 113 lbs. from the previous year, at 1,293 lbs.
- **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 239,000 lbs. live weight, up 21% from August 2025. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 lbs. from the previous year, at 274 lbs.

CASH RECEIPTS

- West Virginia's **farm real estate value**, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, increased from 2025. Farm real estate value for 2026 averaged $3,640 per acre, up $120 per acre from last year. Cropland value increased $180 from last year to $4,400 per acre. Pastureland, at $2,400 per acre, was $70 higher than the previous year.
- **Cash rents** paid to landlords in 2026 for cropland averaged $38.50 per acre compared to $44.50 per acre last year. Pastureland rented for cash averaged $19.00 per acre compared to $16.00 per acre last year.

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

NOVEMBER
WVU GARDEN CALENDAR

WVU EXTENSION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends ◑ Last Quarter	2 Plant leeks in cold frames	3 Plant short-day onions in cold frames	4 Remove stakes and trellises	5 Mulch carrots for winter use	6 Fertilize under deciduous trees and shrubs	7 Water trees and shrubs thoroughly if fall has been dry
8	9 Remove diseased plant debris from garden ● New Moon	10 Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test	11 Veterans Day	12 Winterize garden tools	13 Clean residue from flower beds	14 Mulch strawberries
15	16 Mulch thyme plants before winter	17 Turn compost ◐ First Quarter	18 Mulch perennial beds	19 Harvest salad greens from high tunnel	20	21 Cut hardy chrysanthemums to 2 or 3 inches and mulch
22	23 Fertilize houseplants	24 Mulch garlic ○ Full Moon	25 Store winter squash and gourds for winter	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Harvest Brussels sprouts or overwinter in garden	28
29	30					

West Virginia University Extension creates and distributes free garden calendars each year. Stop by your local WVU Extension office to get a copy (while supplies last).



Annie Erwin is in her 20th year of teaching agriculture education and her 11th at Tyler Consolidated, her alma mater.

BACK TO SCHOOL

On a busy fall day at Tyler Consolidated High School, Agriculture Education teacher Annie Erwin welcomes her students as they file into class, then it's down to businesses preparing for their latest FFA fundraiser, a citrus sale. Life is never boring for Erwin who started teaching ag ed 20 years ago. She's now in her 11th year at Tyler Consolidated, one of the largest and most active FFA chapters in the state.

"We have a program that provides kids with opportunities," explains Erwin.

She knows how important those opportunities are. Back in the late 90's and early 2000's, Erwin was sitting in the same classroom these young men and women now occupy. Growing up in Tyler County on a 250-acre family farm, joining FFA was pretty much a given. Erwin recalls taking ag classes in high school because her friends did. It was a decision she's glad she made.

"Our family operation, Barney Knob Farms, includes the third highest point in Tyler County. Most of the property has been in my family since 1894," says Erwin. "We completed many forestry and wildlife practices when I was growing up through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Division of Forestry. We did timber stand improvement and crop tree releases, to name a few."

She also raised and showed market animals, as well as hogs for her FFA chapter ham and bacon shows. She knew early on she wanted a career in agriculture, but education wasn't her first choice.

"For my Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project, we sawed logs from trees we cut off the farm using a Wood-Mizer LT40 bandmill. It was a three-person operation – me, my mom, and my dad. Some of the lumber was green and some of it we dried in a kiln. We sold the lumber to a local cabinet maker. That project helped pay for college."

> "I love the versatility of teaching agriculture education. Every day is different."





Tyler Consolidated FFA members helped cut the ribbon on the Linda L. Hoover Agriculture Sciences Building back in April.

In 2002, Erwin headed to WVU to study forestry but had a change of heart. She switched her major to ag education and then went on to get her master's. Shortly after graduation, she received an offer to put that degree to use.

"I went to teach at the Nicholas County Career Center to restart a FFA program that hadn't existed since 1975," recalls Erwin. "I had a classroom and that was it. That first semester, I had 10 kids in the program. I spent a lot of time that year just talking about what FFA was and why students should join. Early on, I had several students who really bought into the program. Every semester, we'd add a few more students.

"In that first year, I had three students sign up to do land judging. Teams consist of four members, and when you are competing, you're able to drop your lowest score for that event. But we only had three, so all three scores counted. In the spring of 2008, we qualified to go to the state contest, and our team won! One of my kids had a perfect score in the land judging event. It was the first time an FFA land team from a first-year program had ever won the state contest and the first time for a female agriculture teacher to coach a winning land judging



With more than 150 students in the FFA program, Erwin is one of three ag education teachers at Tyler Consolidated.

team in West Virginia. The next year at the National Land Judging event, the team placed 13th in land judging and 11th in homesite evaluation," Erwin says proudly.

Her time at Nicholas County had many firsts.

"It was challenging to take on a brand-new program," admits Erwin. "But the community was awesome. A lot of farmers in the area were big supporters and provided lots of help."

When a teaching position came open closer to home four years later, Erwin decided to apply for the job.

"I had heard rumors that the ag ed teacher at Valley High (Wetzel Co.), Howard Henderson was retiring. I enjoyed my time in Nicholas County, but I decided to apply at Valley and was hired," explains Erwin.

"Many people in the community were curious who got the job. Finally, it leaked that it was a female. Howard had a gentleman who helped him with the FFA program for many years. His name was Bob Coen. Bob said to Howard, 'I don't know what I think about a female ag teacher.' So, my first day on the job, Bob came in and introduced himself. We talked for a bit, and he left. Howard was there, as well, and he said, 'You passed the Bob test.' From there on out, I had his approval. Mr. Coen was one of my biggest fans."

Erwin spent five years at Valley before an opportunity arose that she couldn't pass up. A teaching position opened at her alma mater, Tyler Consolidated.

"When I got the job here at Tyler, I was ready to be in a multi-teacher FFA program."

Erwin took on the plant systems classes/programs, including the school greenhouse and floriculture, while Leon Ammons headed up the ag mechanics and animal processing.

"We have more than 150 high school kids in our program, plus, we also have the middle school ag education rotational classes," Erwin explains. "Our students are about 45% rural. Not everybody comes from a farm, but we have something for everyone."

> "We have a program that provides kids with opportunities...If they put in the time and work hard, they'll be successful."

In 2022, Devann Fox joined the agricultural education team as the natural resources and fish/wildlife teacher.

One thing was very clear to all three – the building used for FFA greenhouse sales just wasn't growing with their program. It was crowded, not in great shape, and gave them very little opportunity for expansion. For years, they campaigned for a new facility that could help the program reach its potential.

"We're very lucky to have a superintendent, principal, CTE Director, Board of Education, and community who are very supportive," Erwin stresses.

And this past spring, Tyler County Schools cut the ribbon on the new Linda L. Hoover Agricultural Sciences Building on the Tyler Consolidated campus. It's a state-of-the-art facility that includes a commercial kitchen, a meat processing lab, a greenhouse, classroom space, and a retail shop. The outside is warm and welcoming, the inside perfectly laid out to maximize the space. Erwin is most excited about the retail shop.

"For years, we were trying to figure out a way for the kids to have the opportunity to sell their SAE products here on school grounds. We wanted to create a community-type shopping experience where people could support students to promote their future."

When you first walk in the building, there's a cash register, a counter, coolers, and shelving to display products. It has a farm market feel. Community members are welcome to stop by, see what products students have for sale, and shop, shop, shop.

This past summer, they put that into practice.

"We had a few kids who grew cucumbers for their SAE. So, we purchased the cucumbers wholesale from those students. That money went straight to them. Then, here in the commercial kitchen, we made cucumber salad, packaged it, and sold it in the store. That's the value-added side."

Erwin stresses even with a brand-new building, filled with state-of-the-art equipment and room to grow, it's up to the students to make the most of it.

"If they put in the time and work hard, they'll be successful. It doesn't matter what their background is, what their grades are. If they have a passion to work, we can get them there."

The students are definitely putting in the work. This fall, they had a poultry team competing at nationals. This spring, the land judging team went to nationals and placed 14th. During the program's history, they've won the national land judging title four times and the national homesite judging twice. In the classroom, students are engaged and eager to learn.

"I love seeing when students get that 'ah-ha' moment, when that lightbulb clicks. I love to help them find their passion within the program," Erwin smiles. "Even if they don't go into an ag career, they're going to use agriculture lessons in their everyday lives. Everybody eats. Everybody wears clothes. If they have FFA skills to help them in the future, that's what this program is all about."

As the International Year of the Woman Farmer winds down, Erwin has this to say.

"When I was in FFA, the guys were definitely in the majority," Erwin recalls. "But, if you look at the membership now, it's about 50/50 young men and women. I think there's a place for everybody in the ag world, if you're willing to work hard and have a vision. If we're going to have a future in this country, being able to survive and produce food and be self-sufficient, we all have to do our part."

Check out the Tyler FFA & Tyler FFA Alumni Facebook page to learn about upcoming fundraisers, projects, and student products now available at their market, Tyler FFA Blue & Gold Co-Op Store.

BACON-WRAPPED VENISON JALAPENO ONION RINGS



▶ PIGS & PITS BBQ

JAMES PAT VANCE | HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PIGSANDPITS/

A savory twist on a classic favorite, these bacon-wrapped venison jalapeño onion rings bring together bold flavors, a little heat and smoky goodness. Seasoned with Pigs & Pits BBQ All Purpose Pit Rub, they're a delicious addition to any cookout or gathering.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large sweet onion
- 2 packs (12-ounce) regular sliced bacon
- 1 pound ground venison
- 2 jalapeno peppers, minced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup shredded cheese
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- Pigs & Pits BBQ All Purpose Pit Rub
- A favorite barbecue sauce

DIRECTIONS

1. First, slice the onion into ½-inch slices. Pop the centers out and set them aside, leaving the outside ring. Place the outside rings onto a sheet pan or cutting board for filling.

2. In a large bowl, gently mix the minced garlic, jalapeno peppers, salt, pepper, and shredded cheese into the ground venison. Next, make a ring of the meat mixture along the inside of the onion rings. From the onion rings you set aside, find one that fits inside the center of each meat-filled ring.

3. Last but not least, wrap each meat-filled onion ring with a couple of slices of bacon and season with Pigs & Pits BBQ All Purpose Pit Rub.

4. Preheat the smoker or grill to 275–300°F. Place the onion rings directly on the grate or on a grill pan. Cook for about 45 minutes, then check the bacon for doneness. Continue cooking until the ground venison reaches an internal temperature of 160°F. Brush with barbecue sauce or glaze and cook for a few additional minutes to allow the sauce to set.

5. Serve the onion rings as-is or use them to make sandwiches. Place each onion ring on a bun, fill the center with coleslaw, add desired toppings, and finish with a drizzle of barbecue sauce.



WV AGRIBUSINESS
CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS



Blackthorn Estates Nursery - Sugar Grove
Brown's Choose and Cut Christmas Tree Farm - Morgantown
Brushy Mountain Tree Farm - Franklin
Bushtail Creek Unique Gifts - Martinsburg
Capitol Market, Inc. - Charleston
Cedar Run Farm - Friendly
Country Roads Christmas Tree Farm - Mineral Wells
Crickmer Farms Christmas Shoppe - Danese
Dan & Bryan Trees - Shepherdstown
Diello's Choose and Cut - High View
E. Black and Son Nursery - Wheeling
Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm - Mineral Wells
French Creek Christmas Trees - French Creek
Gray's Park Place - Mt. Lookout
Jolliffe Nursery - Knob Fork
King's Trees - Bruceton Mills
Lake's Tree Farm - Hacker Valley
Lynch Christmas Tree Farm - Martinsburg
May Tree Farm - Maysville
Mill Run Farm - Marlinton
Miller's Christmas Trees - Terra Alta
Mozark Mountain Christmas Tree Farm - Hendricks
Mulkeen Landscaping Tree Farm - Independence
Pike Vue Christmas Trees - Bethany
Reddington Farm - Harpers Ferry
Rocky Knob Christmas Tree Farm - Upper Tract
Rosemary's Pumpkins and Pines - Asbury
Santa's Woods - Summit Point
Seven Islands Farm - Parsons
Soggy Bottom Farm & Nursery - Elkins
Town and Country Nursery - Kearneysville
Wardensville Garden Market - Wardensville
Westfall Christmas Tree Farm - Grantsville
Wilkerson Christmas Tree Farm - Griffithsville

Visit: www.https://agriculture.wv.gov/ag-business/west-virginia-grown/.com
for more information on these farms. Want to be added to our list?
Contact Agritourism@wvda.us or wvgrown@wvda.us or 304-558-2210

West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HUNTERS HELPING THE HUNGRY

WEST VIRGINIA DNR

How can you help feed those in need? It's as easy as bagging a buck (or a doe). Since 1992, West Virginia hunters have donated 29,000-plus deer to the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program. That venison is ground, packaged, and donated to the Mountaineer and Facing Hunger Food Banks, who then distribute it to a network of 600 food pantries, shelters, senior centers, and other feeding programs across the state. To date, that adds up to 1.1 million lbs. of ground venison and 1.5 million meals for those who might otherwise go without.

Here's how you can participate. From the first day of any deer season until December 31, hunters who legally harvest a deer and wish to donate the meat to HHH can deliver the deer to the nearest participating meat processor. There is no charge to the hunter.

The Governor's One Shot Hunt, celebrating its 20th year, Share the Harvest Sunday (November 1), and private donations pay for processing and distribution for HHH.

To find out more about HHH and to find a participating processor near you, go to: https://wvdnr.gov/programs-publications/hunters-helping-the-hungry/.

WINTER BLUES FARMERS MARKET **EXPANDS**



The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and WVU Extension are bringing Winter Blues back to northern West Virginia this December, with Winter Blues North, scheduled for Dec. 12, 12 p.m.-5 p.m., at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

While the event may be new to some shoppers, Winter Blues has a long history in Morgantown. The market began in 2009 as part of the West Virginia Small Farm Conference, starting with a small group of vendors before growing into a popular winter shopping event. When the conference moved to Charleston in 2015, organizers expanded Winter Blues to include both a northern and southern market. Eventually, as the Morgantown Farmers Market expanded its own winter market offerings, organizers shifted their focus to growing the Winter Blues event in Charleston.

Over the years, the Charleston market continued to grow, becoming one of the state's largest winter showcases for West Virginia agriculture. The 2026 Winter Blues Farmers Market, held Feb. 28, in Charleston, featured 134 vendors and generated more than $219,000 in sales. Shoppers found everything from locally raised meats and baked goods to coffee, flour mixes, fiber products, and other West Virginia-grown and made items. The event also included a wholesale shopping hour connecting producers with restaurants, retailers, and other buyers.

"Winter Blues has shown us just how much demand there is for West Virginia-grown and West Virginia-made products, even in the middle of winter," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Bringing Winter Blues North back to Morgantown gives our producers another opportunity to reach customers and gives consumers in the northern part of the state another way to support local agriculture."

The return of Winter Blues North is especially timely, with the market scheduled during the holiday shopping season. Shoppers will have an opportunity to purchase locally grown and made products for Christmas gifts, holiday gatherings, and family meals. Winter markets also help extend the traditional farmers market season while showcasing the wide variety of products grown, raised, and made in West Virginia throughout the year.

More information about Winter Blues North, including participating vendors, will be announced as the market approaches. For questions, contact WVDA's Business Development Division at 304-558-2210.

MAKING THE *Grade*



Have you ever heard an old timer say they were "fair to middling?" While they may not have realized it, that familiar phrase has roots in agriculture, originating from the grading system once used for cotton. In years past, poultry, swine, lambs, and even tobacco were all graded before being sold. This agriculture tradition continues today with WVDA's Livestock Grading and Market News reporting staff.

West Virginia's beef industry has many independent producers raising a variety of cattle of varying breeds, sizes, and quality. These cattle need to be grouped together before being placed in feedlots. However, the modern feeder doesn't buy calves one at a time; they want large, consistent groups of cattle and are often willing to pay more for them.

That's where WVDA livestock graders come in. Trained under USDA standards, these graders provide impartial, third-party evaluations using common industry terminology that buyers and sellers understand. At graded feeder cattle sales, a grader must be on hand to comingle cattle. The market may then combine calves off numerous different farms into larger (and therefore more valuable) groups.

Another important service is assisting with board sales. WVDA graders visit farms alongside market representatives to evaluate cattle, develop detailed descriptions and, in some cases, record videos for prospective buyers. These cattle will be auctioned off sight unseen, with the buyer mostly depending on the grader's description to fix their own value.

One of the best-known board sales is the West Virginia Quality Assurance Feeder Cattle Sale. All groups of calves on this sale are sired by performance tested bulls and are raised on a prescribed health, weaning, and feeding program before delivery. The prices for this sale usually top the market.

Lastly, our graders publish weekly market reports that depict trade activity from sale to sale at each given livestock market. These reports define majority-of-trade prices by weight and type. This is crucial information for farmers, buyers, brokers, and lenders in evaluating market conditions and making business decisions for the 15,000 beef producers across West Virginia.

To find WVDA Market News on the web, go to https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/animal-health/market-news/.

NOVEMBER 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

December 2026. . .

Phone-In ads for the December issue must be received by 12 noon on Monday, November 9.

Written ads for the December issue must be received by 1 p.m. on, Tuesday, November 10.

January 2027. . .

Phone-In ads for the January issue must be received by 12 noon on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Written ads for the January issue must be received by 1 p.m. on, Thursday, Dec. 10.

To subscribe to The Market Bulletin, email marketbulletin@wvda.us or phone 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 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, oconnellpatrick0370@gmail.com.

Mountaineer Beekeepers Assoc., *Discussion Meeting, 4th* Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Doddridge Co. Library, downstairs meeting room, Union, Contact Patrick O'Connell, oconnellpatrick0370@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.

Cattle Sales

Reg. Polled Hereford bulls, $3,500/up. Bobby Daniels, PO Box 214, Fairdale, 25839; 304-575-7585.

Reg. Limousin & Lim-flex breeding-age bulls, have passed BSE, vaccinated, GE EPDs & perform. info. avail., calm disp., $5,000. Kim Getz, 122 Dolly Hill Rd., Scherr, 26726; 304-749-8043; ralimousin@frontiernet.net

Full calves & heifer calves, 6, oldest is 9 mos., dark red calves from reg. bull; all have Hereford markings, straight backs, excel for breeding, $1,800/up. Dwight Huffman, 7976 Blue Lick Rd., Greenville, 24945; 540-726-7577.

Angus & Angus/Hereford cross cows, 14 head, 2- & 7-yr. old, home-raised, bred to Reg. Angus bull, gentle, easy to handle, vaccinated, $3,500/ea. Jack Keaton, 3580 W Clayton Rd., Alderson, 24910; 304-445-7466; sparker@osteo.wvsom.edu.

Reg. Black Angus bulls & heifer 6-mo. calves, SAV/Resource blood, $2,000/up. Justin McClain, 2853 Dry Fork Rd., Salem, 26426; 304-782-3983

Black Angus bulls, $2,500/ea. 2 ½- yr. old, $4,000. Homer Plumley, 351 Plumley Mtn. Rd., Shady Spring, 25918; 304-573-8799.

Black Angus 30-mo. bull, gentle, 1,100 lbs., good bloodline, $3,500. Sherry Pritchard, 1014 Wolf Pen Branch Rd., East Lynn, 25512; 304-849-2402; Pwv9@aol.com.

Reg. Limousin & Lim-Flex bulls, all black & polled, $3,500/up, can keep until spring with deposit. Charles Ridgeway, 387 Limousin Lane, Ronceverte, 24970; 304-520-2013.

Black 18-mo. bull, good maker, good body lines, ready to service, $2,100. Tim Templon, 5836 Pine Crk. Rd., Grantsville, 26147; 304-354-7650.

Equipment Sales

No trucks, cars, vans, campers or other autos; backhoes (except 3-pt. hitch), dozers or other construction equipment; lawn equipment; no parts.

Hesston Ford 3000 tractor w/loader, new radiator/battery, $5,500. Darrell Allen, 1285 Missouri Run Rd., Parkersburg, 26101; 304-489-2901.

Kubota BX 50" snow blower (fits all BX series) w/quick hitch & PTO kit, good cond., $1,550; chains to fit BX 1860 with bar tires, $50; HB Christian, 362 Crossroads Rd, Wana, 26590; 304-692-0756.

Ford 1510 tractor, 4WD, 3-cyl. diesel, rollbar, 410 hrs., w/mid-mounted 60" mower, front-end loader, $5,300; NAA Ford, totally rebuilt w/12-volt system/alternator, 4 new tires/rims, $4,900; Ford 3000 tractor, live PTO, P/S, excel. cond., $4,900. Bus Conaway, PO Box 1335, Elkins, 26241; 304-642-3208.

NH 9030B 6' finish mower, 3-pt. hitch, lifetime belt, fresh grease, newer rebuilt spindles, sharpened blades, heavy-duty, $1,100; homemade bale spears, one good for parts, $160/both; round bale mover/carrier, 3-pt. hitch, $400. Wes Durst, 2600 Evans Rd., Leon, 25123; 304-895-3490.

Case Int. 395 4WD tractor, low hours, $12,500. Ben Ellis, 2711 Brownstown Rd, Renick, 24966; 304-667-0783.

JD 1B one-hole corn sheller, $800. Leslie Glaspie, 40 Glady Creek Rd., Fairmont, 26554; 970-275-5430.

Potato plow, heavy-duty, $250; 4' drag, $200; cone fertilizer spreader, $300. Tom Hayhurst, 162 Dalewood Dr., Fairmont, 26554.

Pickup disc, heavy-duty, from 4610 Ford tractor, $1,100; 501 mowing machine, 7', blue, $500; MF 2-bottom plow, $300; JD 4-row sod planter, needs some work, not in use, $400.; NH 256 hay rake, $1,000; '52 3 or 4 Ford tractor, $600. Danny Meadows, 1497 White Tree Hill Rd., Ballard 24918; 304-753-4993; 304-646-0400.

JD 5105 tractor, 4WD, new brakes & front tires, loader bucket, manure forks. $15,000. Allen Miller, 946 Cuzzart Mtn Dale Rd., Bruceton Mills; 304-379-9717.

JD 72D AutoConnect mid-mount mower deck 5' diameter, great cond., $1,200; King Cutter rear discharge 5' finish mower, $1,500; Mohawk Model 507 brush hog (5' rotary cutter), 3-pt. hitch, for standard 540 PTO tractor, $1,200. Michael Moore 5315 Shoestring, Lewisburg, 24901; 304-992-4425; BHH1875@pm.me.

NH '07 PT 60 w/loader, 1,100 hrs., $20,000 or trade on cab tractor, can pay difference. Homer Plumley, 351 Plumley Mtn. Rd., Shady Spring, 25918; 304-573-8799.

Farmall '57 130 single pt. fast hitch, excel. cond., 2-way plow, set of disks, new tires, looks/runs excel, $4,500. Dave Sprouse, 1548 Thistlewood Circle, Hurricane, 25526; 304-539-1052;

MF 246 front loader, 6' bed, w/brackets, $2,300. Tim Templon, 5836 Pine Crk. Rd., Grantsville, 26147; 304-354-7650.

NH '04 TC33D utility tractor, hydro, 4WD; Ag tires recently replaced & in very good shape; 990 hours (garage kept); 914A mid-mount mower with 60" cut; Land Pride RB1572 rear snow blade, $15,500; can provide photos, serious inquiries only; reasonable offers considered. Patty Webster, New Cumberland, 26047; 304-670-6033; webstep221@frontier.com

MF '00 231S tractor, 3-cyl. Perkins diesel, 400 hrs., 2-stage clutch, high & low trans - tractor garage-kept, w/450 MF disc; 5' bush hog, 12" bottom plows; 6' scraper blade; pig pole, $12,000 firm. Jerry Wilson, 408 Posey Run Rd., Orlando, 26412; 304-853-9779.

JD HX10 brush hog, field-ready, $7,500; NH 258 hay rake, field-ready, 4 new tires, $3,500; Int. Harvester 5100 grain drill, 21'7" configuration, seed box for soybeans, seed box for grain, field-ready, $3,500, photos upon request. Tom Wilson, 12621 Charleston Rd., Leon, 25123; 304-675-5724.

Goat Sales

ADGA Nigerian Dwarf does, 10 months to 7 years, some bred, blue eyes, disbudded, herd reduction, good quality, current on all shots/worming, $200/up. Mary Wolfe, 1430 Tribble Road, Leon, 25123; 304-545-2930, leslie.wolfe@frontier.com.

Hog Sales

Hog, male, good for breeding, $150; other hogs, $200/ea. obo. C.V. Gibson, 75 Clayton Lane, Clendenin, 25045; 304-965-3080.

Ossabaw Island hog boar, mature, healthy, virile & good-disp., 4th generation from Ossabaw Island, no papers, raised on organic pasture, GMO-free feed. **FREE** to good farm. Quincy McMichael, General Delivery, Renick 24966; 304-992-2922.

Yorkshire/Duroc 8-wk. pigs, $90/ea. Benjamin Vickenson, 2165 Zion Mountain Rd., Hinton, 25951; 304-660-5686.

Horse Sales

Haflinger mare team, worked on farm and in town, ride or work, $8,000. Mike Roach, 459 George Roach Rd., Lesage, 25537.

Jack 3-yr guardian donkey, run w/sheep, Coggins in hand, $425. Carter Miles, 346 Sugar Tree Rd., Griffithsville, 25521; 304-524-9117.

Poultry Sales

Black Java chickens, small flock, 4 hens & 1 rooster, organic, pasture-raised, w/no chemicals. $200 obo. Quincy McMichael, General Delivery, Renick, 24966; 304-992-2922.

Silver Laced Wyandotte, from show quality lines, DOH: May 2026, $30/ea; Royal Palm turkeys, $100/ea.; Ancona ducks, $50/ea. Michael Moore, 5315 Shoestring, Lewisburg, 24901; 304-992-4425; BHH1875@pm.me.

Sheep Sales

Hamp./Suffolk 3/23 ram, $450. Kevin Jones, 1039 Range Rd., Wadestown, 26590; 304-476-1247.

Dorper ram, 4-mo. lambs, 2, weaned/shots, black-headed, $350/ea.; 7 ewe lambs, Dorper, black-headed, weaned, CDT/wormed, $350/ea. Bernice Taylor, 558 Barns Run Rd., Sandyville, 25275; 304-273-0704.

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.

Reg. Lassie Collie 7-yr. dogs, 2, raised on farm, good with animals, $200/pr. Or will separate. Kevin Cummings, 110 Walnut St., Evans, 25241; 304-372-8615

Hay, never wet, barn kept, $65/bale. Hay trailer, 8'x16', treated floor, $1,000. Bobby Daniels, PO Box 214, Fairdale, 25839; 304-575-7585.

Field corn, hand-picked, no shucks, $6/bu.; Ben Ellis, 1661 Brownstown Rd., Renick, 24966; 304-497-3174.

Iris flower bulbs, pink, $1.50/doz. V.A. Hess, 891 East Mt. Lookout Rd., Mt. Lookout, 26678; 304-872-2222.

Trailer, '94 4-Star bumper pull, all aluminum, drop-down windows on head side, sliding windows on back side, fully carpeted, kept inside, good tires, $10,750 OBO. Dwight Huffman, 7976 Blue Lick Rd., Greenville, 24945; 540-726-7577.

Mulch hay, sq. bales, $3/bale. Allen Marple, 2924 US Highway 33W, Weston, 26452; 681-533-3001.

Hay, 1st cut, good feed for anything, $4.50/bale. Don Mollohan, 4808 Servia Elmira Rd., Duck, 25063; 304-364-8707.

Hay, 4x5' rounds bales, $30/ea. Brian Moore, 114 Spring Water Lane, Chester, 26034; 304-374-1672.

Pedigreed Silver Fox rabbits from show stock, organically raised, $75/ea. Michael Moore 5315 Shoestring Trail, Lewisburg, 24901; 304-994-9119; BHH1875@pm.me.

Hay, 4x5' round bales, net wrapped, mixed grass, limed/fert., $40/bale. Adam Reckart, 603 Cuzzart Rd., Bruceton Mills, 26525; 304-379-6708.

Hay, 5' round bales, premium, barn-kept, last year's, $40/bale; this year's, $50/bale. Ronnie Rowe, 202 Malcolm Rd., Barboursville 25504; 304-638-3321; 304-633-3871.

Ear corn, $6/bu., bring boxes of feed sacks, call for avail. Paula Ruggles, 131 Ruggles Orchard Rd., Levels, 25431; 304-492-5751.

Stock Trailer, Corn Pro gooseneck, 16' X 6'10" wide, divider gate, 10-ply tires, 6,000 lb. axles, gray, brakes on both axles, shed kept, excel. cond., $9,500. Randal Tribble, 5258 Beech Fork Rd., Leon, 25123; 304-812-8333.

Hay or straw, 4x5' round bales, $20/bale. Straw, sq. bales, clean, wired tied, barn-kept, $7/bale. Tom Wilson, 12621 Charleston Rd., Leon, 25123; 304-675-5724.

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



THE MARKET BULLETIN
WV Department of Agriculture
Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner
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Charleston, WV 25305-0170
NOVEMBER 2026

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West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER, KENT A. LEONHARDT

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Communications Director: Beth Southern • Editor: Jennifer Smith Poling • Designer: Brooke Francke • Contributor: Carrie Kirk