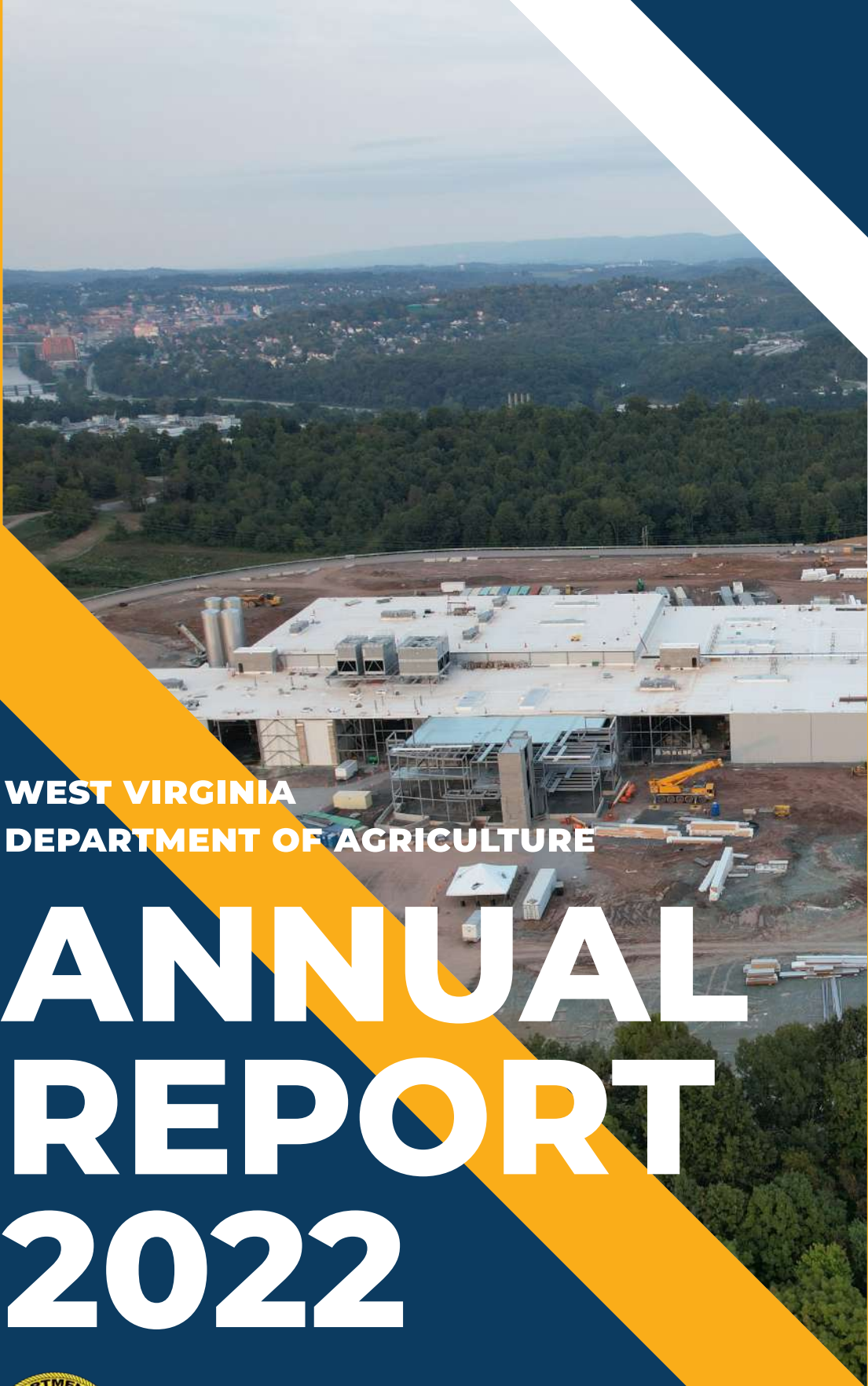


PUBLISHED JANUARY 2023



**WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[HTTPS://AGRICULTURE.WV.GOV/](https://agriculture.wv.gov/)



**West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**  
COMMISSIONER, KENT A. LEONHARDT

# CONTACT US

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
State Capitol, Room E-28  
Charleston, WV 25305-0170**

---

**KENT A. LEONHARDT**  
COMMISSIONER

kleonhardt@wvda.us or 304-558-3550

**JOSEPH L. HATTON**  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

jhatton@wvda.us or 304-558-3550

**NORMAN BAILEY**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

nbailey@wvda.us or 304-558-3200

**CRESCENT GALLAGHER**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR/LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

cgallagher@wvda.us or 304-380-3922

**LORA WALKER, ESQ.**  
GENERAL COUNSEL

lwalker@wvda.us or 304-558-1350



The mission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is to protect plant, animal and human health and the state's food supply through a variety of scientific and regulatory programs; to provide vision, strategic planning and emergency response for agricultural and other civil emergencies; to promote industrial safety and protect consumers through educational and regulatory programs; and to foster economic growth by promoting West Virginia agriculture and agribusinesses throughout the state and abroad.

*Kent A. Lumbard*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4</b>	<b>CONTACT US</b>	Summer Lunches Farmers Markets Eggs Produce Safety Manufactured Foods Regulatory - Program Standards Hemp Products
<b>6</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES</b> Guthrie Labs West Virginia Grown	
<b>8</b>	<b>ANIMAL HEALTH</b> Meat and Poultry Inspection Captive Cervid/Deer Farming Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Animal Health Field Technicians (AHFTS) Livestock Grading/USDA Agriculture - Marketing Service (AMS) Apiary Poultry Scrapie Program Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories State Veterinarian Office WV Spay & Neuter Program	<b>22</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>FARMS</b> Huttonsville, Pruntytown and Lakin Farms General McCausland Memorial Farm West Virginia University and - West Virginia State University Food Safety and Food Banks Corrections Livestock Markets/Cattle Marketing	<b>AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY PROTECTION</b> United States Food and Drug - Administration West Virginia Commercial Feed Law Non-Registered Products Fertilizer Lime Seed Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards Pesticides Control Act
<b>15</b>	<b>CEDAR LAKES CONFERENCE CENTER</b> Cedar Lakes Conference Center	<b>25</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS</b> Homeland Security Unit (HSU)	<b>LABORATORIES</b> Agriculture Materials Food and Dairy Testing Hemp Cooperative Agreements ISO Accreditation
<b>19</b>	<b>FOOD SAFETY</b> United States Food and Drug Administration U.S. Department of Agriculture - Country of Origin Labeling Food and Dairy Testing	<b>28</b>
		<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS</b> Nutrient Management Program Nutrient Management Laboratory Soil Testing Laboratories Water Quality Monitoring Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Sample and Analysis Totals for 2022
		<b>31</b>
		<b>FOREST HEALTH AND PLANT INDUSTRIES</b> Geographic Information System (GIS) - Support Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) - Programs Plant Pest Regulatory Program (PPRP) Industrial Hemp Black Fly Control Program Pest Identification Laboratory (PIL) Forest Health Protection Programs - (FHP)

Lymantria Dispar (Spongy Moth) Program  
Spotted Lanternfly Program

**39 FOOD COMMODITIES**

Food Distribution and Child Nutrition Program  
The Emergency Food Assistance Program  
The Commodity Supplemental Food Program

**41 AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Specialty Crop Block Grants  
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program  
USDA Farm-to-School Grant  
West Virginia Grown  
Veterans and Heroes To Agriculture  
Agritourism Industry Poised For Growth

**44 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Fiscal/Human Resources Management  
Building and Grounds  
Fiscal Position

**48 RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM**

Applications

**50 AGRICULTURE STATISTICS**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

# COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



Now more than ever, we need to focus on food security to avoid potential national food chain shortages. We must expand access to fresh, local foods by investing in food resiliency and our local food systems. It is time to believe in the West Virginia farmer.

# COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES

KENT A. LEONHARDT

## GUTHRIE LABS

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) provides vision and strategic planning to ensure the continuation of an adequate, safe, and wholesome food supply for the citizens of West Virginia. Laboratories under WVDA are a vital part of our mission to protect and promote the agriculture industry in the Mountain State. The work conducted by our trained laboratory staff, although unseen by the average West Virginian, touches the lives of every citizen through human, animal, plant and environmental protection.

WVDA Labs are the front line in food safety through the work we do in monitoring human foods, animal feeds, fertilizers, safe water, and animal disease surveillance. Despite the importance of WVDA laboratories, there are a variety of challenges related to existing facilities, including: lack of space, security, and functionality. The laboratory facilities, originally constructed nearly six decades ago as a military radar base, have reached the end of their useful life. This led to WVDA procuring the services of a design and engineering team to evaluate the current needs and make recommendations for the investigative, programmatic, design, and budgeting process for new facilities.

The proposed new laboratory will enhance overall working conditions for laboratorians and scientists in new offices and bench spaces. The facility will also add educational and inspection components to the new infrastructure. The new laboratory facility will be approximately 42,000 SF with an anticipated total cost of \$72,000,000 but will allow WVDA to continue its mission of ensuring an adequate and safe food supply.

As we deal with ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that the state take necessary precautions to lessen the effects of future emergencies. Regardless of the type of emergency, our state laboratory facilities will play a vital part in protecting our citizens. For too long, rebuilding WVDA Guthrie laboratories has been put on the back burner; and if we are going to continue to ensure a safe, reliable food system for all West Virginia citizens, it is time we start the process. Now is the time to act.

## WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

West Virginians take a lot of pride in their heritage. Our farmers and producers are no exception – although they certainly are exceptional. Developed in 1986, West Virginia Grown was designed to market West Virginia grown and made products to consumers. By placing the West Virginia Grown logo on a product, they are assuring buyers that the product was grown or processed, with quality ingredients, in the Mountain State.

As local food continues to grow in popularity and consumers turn to healthier, fresher options, branding products as local will be vital to increasing potential market opportunities. We believe this program is an important component to helping grow and diversify our economy, as well as expand our local food systems throughout West Virginia. Our mission is to convey to the consumer that when they buy a West Virginia Grown product they are putting dollars right back into the communities we live in.

The branding around this program is simple – West Virginians pride themselves on their heritage and culture. We always rally around one another and never shy away from supporting our great state. It's that same pride we have tried to emulate through our West Virginia Grown program. Agriculture has rich roots in the Mountain State, and we believe it will play a vital role in our future. It is time we take the West Virginia Grown program to a new level by adequately funding the program so we can educate producers, as well as consumers, on the benefits of locally grown food.

# ANIMAL HEALTH

---

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT

“  
For 2022 and continuing into 2023, Animal Health personnel have been very engaged with stakeholders and interagency partners for the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak across the U.S, plus for preparedness activities to respond, mitigate, and recover from potential incursions of high-consequence animal diseases that could have harmful impacts on WV’s food supply, overall economy, and citizen well-being.



# ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal Health Division's goal is to prevent, suppress and control any communicable diseases of livestock and poultry as mandated by West Virginia law.

## MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau (MPIB) continues its emphasis on food safety through our first line of defense – our inspectors. With the use of United State Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Public Health Information System (PHIS), inspectors observe and review establishments using proven scientific methods. All inspectors are trained to recognize the signs of infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. In addition, they monitor incoming livestock and poultry as well as meat and poultry products for chemical residues/toxicity that might either intentionally or unintentionally threaten our food supply.

In cooperation with Animal Health Division's FSIS-trained Public Health Veterinarians, our inspection staff ensured that meat and poultry products produced at our licensed establishments were safe and wholesome for human consumption. However, their responsibilities do not end with evaluating the health of the animals. These same inspectors performed sanitation inspections during establishments' work time and randomly sampled meat and poultry products for testing to provide an additional level of confidence for West Virginia consumers. For state fiscal year 2021-2022, the inspectors provided daily slaughter and processing inspections at 25 commercial establishments, 24 custom establishments, and 350 distributors. Concurrently, inspectors and veterinarians examined 11,309 animals (3,677 Cattle, 2,542 Swine, 165 Sheep, 62 Goats, 63 Buffalo, 4,308 chickens, 373 turkeys, 119 ducks/geese).

As a result, livestock carcasses and carcass parts totaling 65,187 lbs. were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and were prevented from entering the food supply. Conversely, MPIB inspected and passed about 2,804,012 pounds of processed meat and poultry products for sale to consumers in West Virginia. To further ensure the safety of meat and poultry products inspected by the MPIB, 375 microbiological samples were tested for pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella, Listeria, as well as for antibiotic residues and other chemicals.

## CAPTIVE CERVID / DEER FARMING

The state's deer farming industry and interest in owning and operating a farm has remained steady. During state fiscal year 2021-2022, there were 28 Class I (breeding farms) and eight Class II (hunting preserves) registered as WV deer farms. To maintain USDA program standards, 146 tuberculosis and 132 brucellosis samples were collected and submitted by WV licensed, USDA Designated Accredited Veterinarians. Forty-five inspections were completed by the three animal health field technicians. In addition, the same field technicians collected 93 chronic wasting disease samples for testing at USDA-approved laboratories.

## ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY (ADT)

The program's purpose is the control of disease through the ability to trace an animal from its farm of origin to its ultimate consumer endpoint. Animal Health Division has registered approximately 11,311 premises, with 136 new registrations. Under the federal regulations, both metal NUES tags and 840 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are acceptable forms of official identification. Eleven thousand six hundred and twenty-five RFID tags were distributed to private veterinarians, livestock producers, and livestock markets. Multiple National Priority Trace Exercises were conducted by an ADT Coordinator and support staff. The office processes dozens of weekly Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) for both incoming and outgoing interstate movements. These documents are required by states and can become critical for tracking in the event disease traces occur.

*\*WNL (medical patient record term for "within-normal-limits").*

## ANIMAL HEALTH FIELD TECHNICIANS (AHFTS)

A total of 105,000 animals were inspected for signs of disease at livestock markets, fairs, festivals, and on-farm. AHFTs examined cattle, goats, equines, sheep, swine, back yard flock poultry plus various other animals being shown at West Virginia's fairs/festivals and WVDA-licensed livestock markets to ensure intra- and interstate movement requirements were met and animals with zoonotic diseases that can be transmissible to people were recommended to event-holders for their entrant to be excused from the event. AHFTs conducted 61 honor flock (sheep) and 100 honor herd (goats) certifications that require yearly enrollment or renewal and can now be initiated online. AHFTs also monitor market equine sales to ensure required testing is completed for any arrivals needing EIA (Coggins) test negative documents before they can move interstate.

## LIVESTOCK GRADING / USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE (AMS)

A total of 29,789 head of cattle were graded in barn and for board sales at West Virginia livestock markets by USDA-AMS certified livestock graders. Livestock Graders also perform market reporting into the USDA-AMS national database that generates market reports based on USDA standards for market reporting. Grading assessments are also required to be conducted based on national program training and standards.

## APIARY

The Apiary Unit conducts statewide hive inspections, performs outreach and education, conducts disease surveillance and response, and participates in the annual national USDA APHIS honeybee survey. In addition, the Apiary Unit also regulates colonies and equipment for sales and interstate movement. Honeybee operations are growing throughout the state. As of November 2022, a total of 1,220 beekeepers have registered 13,003 colonies.

Beekeepers in West Virginia produced a self-reported 236,558 pounds of honey during the honey production season of 2021, which represents an increase as compared to 2020 production (192,612). Varroa destructor mites continue to be a major concern for beekeepers, as they represent the primary cause for colony loss in West Virginia. WVDA is exploring partnerships around the state and with bordering states to combat honeybee pests and diseases.

## POULTRY

Commercial poultry is the state's largest animal agriculture sector with a \$246.3 million annual value of production for 2020 (source: USDA NASS 2021 WV Agricultural Annual Statistics Bulletin). This production is comprised of broiler chickens and turkeys for meat consumption, plus eggs for consumption and hatching eggs for reproduction. Valuable genetic stock production contributes key inputs critical for industry growth and development. During 2020, broiler production totaled 70.2 million and turkeys raised in WV totaled 3.9 million (source: USDA NASS 2021 WV Agricultural Annual Statistics Bulletin).

Cooperation between WVDA, USDA and multiple poultry companies in the state is vital for poultry disease surveillance to protect this valuable rural industry and to ensure that foreign markets remain open to U.S. poultry. Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance is ongoing and preparedness activities for rapid response are ongoing by all poultry industry stakeholders. Multiple calls with commercial poultry producers and interagency stakeholders were conducted by Animal Health Division related to HPAI 2022 outbreak across North America. These efforts are essential for maintaining international trade and to eliminate production losses due to outbreak of foreign animal poultry diseases.

## SCRAPIE PROGRAM

WVDA Animal Health will soon be slated for a required five-year Scrapie Review by USDA-APHIS, requiring on-site program demonstration and response for any subsequent corrective actions for review findings. This review is critical to successfully maintain West Virginia's USDA Scrapie Program "Consistent Status." This is important for stakeholders as WVDA examines market opportunities, interstate movement and future program participation with the goal to eradicate Scrapie from the United States.

## ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

Diagnostic laboratories in Moorefield and Charleston provide active frontline surveillance and detection for economically significant animal diseases. The Moorefield Animal Health Diagnostic Lab is an authorized National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Lab and a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory. The Moorefield lab conducted 187,535 tests during state FY 2020–21. NPIP testing includes Avian Influenza, Salmonella, and Mycoplasma. The Moorefield lab conducts NAHLN PCR testing for African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Swine Influenza Virus, and Virulent Newcastle Disease. The ability to conduct the NAHLN PCR tests enhances West Virginia, regional and U.S. emergency preparedness and response capability and capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak. In May 2020, the Moorefield lab obtained ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is the international standard for testing and calibration laboratories. The Guthrie Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory conducted 14,905 tests during state FY 2021–22 with focus on livestock regulatory program diseases Equine Infectious Anemia, Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Bovine Anaplasmosis, Johne's Disease, Bovine Leukosis Virus, and BVD.

## STATE VETERINARIAN OFFICE

This office provides daily consultation to producers, veterinary practitioners, and animal industry stakeholders for a wide variety of queries arising from both commercial and backyard operations. Veterinarians participate in the West Virginia One Health partnership which includes multiple state and federal agencies. Participants discuss issues such as rabies, arboviruses (EG–West Nile Virus), tick surveillance and other potential problems which may affect livestock, wildlife, people, or the environment.

The office assesses veterinary biologics (vaccine) requests and three experimental vaccines conditionally approved by USDA are available in West Virginia for diseases affecting farmed deer, sheep, and rabbits. The office coordinates the West Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Pilot Project in cooperation with Jackson County Regional Livestock Market, WVU Extension, and beef industry producers, stakeholders, and associations.

West Virginia's interagency Dangerous Wild Animal Board and multi-partner Livestock Care Standards Board are also supported by the State Veterinarian's attendance. The office frequently assists preparedness and response activities such as conducting official Foreign Animal Disease Investigations, gaining basic and advanced Incident Command System training, participating in state, regional, or national exercises and drills and serving on several national organization committees including United States Animal Health Association and National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials.

## WV SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM

The program is present in all but four West Virginia counties and increased to 64 grantees awarded \$423,077.62. Alongside \$263,624.24 in grantee's matching funds, the number of alterations increased overall by 877. In total, grantees completed 10,802 surgical alterations on 5,575 felines and 2,988 community cat designated felines, and 2,239 canines.



# FARMS

---

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT

“Through our advanced animal traceability, production records, ongoing disease testing, and enhanced culling, WVDA Farms is leading the way by demonstrating that a safe and available food supply starts on the local level.”



# FARMS

## HUTTONSVILLE, PRUNTYTOWN, AND LAKIN FARMS

WVDA operates 9,700 acres of state-owned farmland at Huttonsville, Pruntytown, and Lakin. The farms are primarily involved in the production of feeder cattle, which are marketed or transported to Huttonsville to be finished inside the 300-head enclosed feedlot. Last year over 90% of the cattle sold on the rail graded USDA Prime or Choice.

WVDA successfully bred and calved more than 500 beef cattle using both artificial insemination (AI) and natural service bulls. AI is being used to introduce new bloodlines and genetics at a faster pace into the herd with the plan to improve beef quality and production. The natural service bulls were all purchased through the WVU sponsored bull evaluation and sales. The bulls are tested and selected using feed-efficiency data. The farms also produced 3,375 tons of hay and haylage with a value of over \$300,000. Approximately 2,200 ton of corn silage was produced at Huttonsville, which is being used as feed.

WVDA continued its preventive animal health and vaccination programs, while also remaining Beef Quality Assurance Certified. WVDA continues to act as a lead the industry on animal traceability by attaching RFID tags to all cattle. These tags allow all cattle to be traced throughout the farm system from birth to harvest. By utilizing animal traceability on WVDA farms, we can access animal health and production records and demonstrate the value of this technology to the industry. The WVDA cattle herd is striving to be the leader in a herd free of common diseases. Over the last five years enhanced culling to remove suspect cattle from the herd. The WVDA is now the only publicly owned herd free of common diseases.

Capital improvements continue to be made on all farms, including the upgrading of the automated feeding system in the feedlot. Both short and long-term plans are being followed to renovate cattle working and loading facilities. These improvements allow for low stress cattle movement and create a safe working environment for staff and our partners. Staff continue multi-year, on-going plans to renovate, rotate, and improve both pasture and crop ground, including mechanical and chemical methods. USDA NRCS has started its planning process to develop conservation plans. These plans will enhance our capacity to install conservation practices to facilitate grazing and nutrient management systems.

## GENERAL MCCAUSLAND MEMORIAL FARM

The General McCausland Memorial Farm, located in Henderson, continues its mission to operate as a demonstration facility, primarily focused on beef cattle production. During the past fiscal year, the farm staff was responsible for the management of 90 spring calving cows which were bred to Angus, Semi-Angus and Hereford bulls who were purchased from the WVU sponsored bull evaluation and sales. Most of these calves were marketed locally at approximately 900lbs; however, several were moved to Huttonsville to be finished in the feedlot. This gives WVDA the ability to collect carcass data that will facilitate farm staff in making cattle management decisions. This farm also produced 25 tons per acre of field corn and over 500 rolls of hay.

The General McCausland Farm partners with local and statewide FFA chapters to host several soils and land evaluation contest and training sessions.

## WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AND WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The state-owned farms have partnered with WVU Extension and the Davis College on a cattle breeding research project, using mostly cattle at Pruntytown and Huttonsville farms. This project functions by utilizing not only WVDA cattle but also farm records and staff to research feed efficiency in beef cattle. WVU utilizes WVDA-weaned steers and heifers for these research projects. This cooperative agreement allows the sharing of data and resources that not only provide for improvements to WVDA cattle herds but hopefully to cattle producers throughout the state.

The Lakin farm has continued its partnership with WVSU that allows WVSU to use five to 10 acres of cropland and high tunnels for research and education.

## FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD BANKS

WVDA farm staff planted and harvested over 10 acres of garden plots at both Huttonsville and Lakin farms. These plots were used for hands-on Food Safety and Pesticide Training classes for WVDA staff and the public. These training classes were held at both Lakin and Huttonsville farms. Upon the completion of the training, more than 20,000 lbs. of produce were donated to West Virginia food banks network.

## CORRECTIONS

State-owned farms have agreements in place with West Virginia Division of Corrections to utilize inmate labor when available. During the past fiscal year, more than 17,000 hours of inmate labor was used within the farm system. WVDA considers the use of inmates as a partnership to not only provide much needed farm labor but also to teach inmates hands-on skills such as animal husbandry, fence building, mechanic skills, and painting. Over 110 inmates participated in this training during the last fiscal year.

## LIVESTOCK MARKETS / CATTLE MARKETING

Farm Administration continued to oversee the licensing of public markets, livestock dealers, and weighmen. The Farm Administration schedules and plans the annual meeting of livestock market owners and the Commissioner of Agriculture. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss any new regulations or initiatives USDA desires. The Farm Administration continue to work with livestock markets to schedule and advertise both spring and fall special calf sales.



# CEDAR LAKES CONFERENCE — CENTER



Cedar Lakes Conference Center has served the state by offering exceptional learning experiences to thousands of individuals. From conventions and corporate training, to the annual Art & Craft Festival, Cedar Lakes continues to provide groups an environment that promotes personal development and a greater appreciation for the world around them.



# CEDAR LAKES CONFERENCE CENTER

## CEDAR LAKES CONFERENCE CENTER

Cedar Lakes Conference Center has continued to exhibit an increase in the number of groups utilizing and visiting the facility. From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, the facility showed a 42% increase in revenue – a great sign that groups are beginning to return after the pandemic. Cedar Lakes hosts a variety of events which include the State FFA Convention, 4-H camps, senior services conventions, band camps, special needs retreats, substance abuse rehabilitation conventions, the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair, quilt camps, craft classes, training workshops, family reunions, weddings, showers and birthdays.

In May of 2022, Holli Vanater began work as the new director of Cedar Lakes. In addition, Samantha Batten was promoted to the position of Operations Manager. A new marketing strategy includes attracting state and national organizations to Cedar Lakes, as well as developing new workshops and weekend seminars at the facility.

A major facility assessment is being conducted that will guide building improvements and become the blueprint for the identification of potential funding opportunities. The goal will be to align the needs of the facility with organizations specializing in providing specific assistance. The needs of those who use the facility will also serve as a driving force to seek outside funding. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) considerations, as well as safety and security improvements, are a top priority for Cedar Lakes.

The Assembly Hall has reopened and provides organizations a large venue for meeting space. Previous building improvement projects are continuing with Holt and Main Lodge, and as additional funding is acquired, improvements will continue throughout the facility. Cedar Lakes is a great spot for outdoor recreation and a true West Virginia destination.



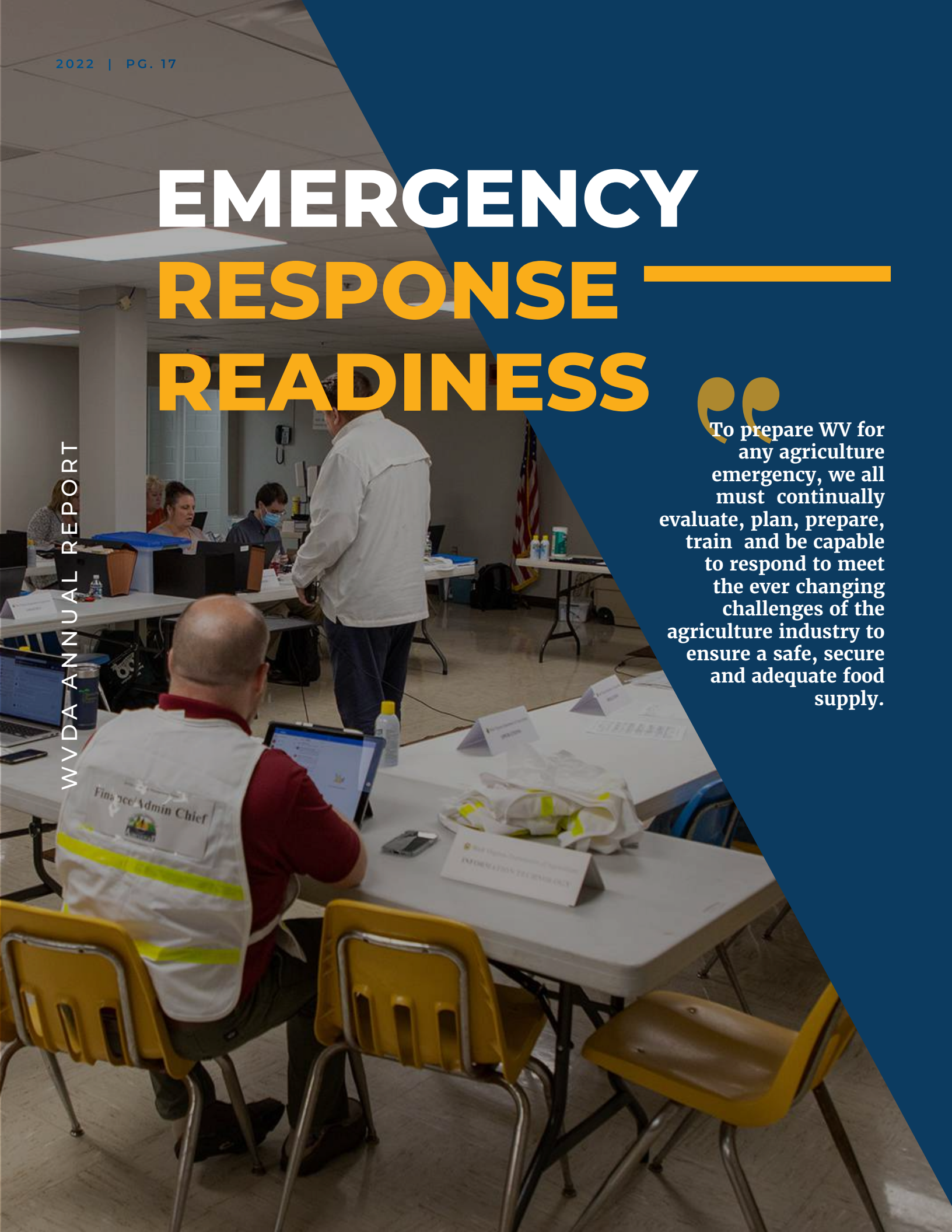


# EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



To prepare WV for any agriculture emergency, we all must continually evaluate, plan, prepare, train and be capable to respond to meet the ever changing challenges of the agriculture industry to ensure a safe, secure and adequate food supply.



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS

## HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT (HSU)

The WVDA Homeland Security unit provides training, guidance, and preparation for future emergency response situations. The unit focuses on education of employees, stakeholders, and agriculture partners relating to awareness of diseases, natural disasters, or other emergencies. Homeland security staff maintains a database of physical and human resources within the WVDA, as well as with partners as part of the Department's prepared response initiatives.

### The Following Reflects Activities of the HSU:

- The HSU represents the WVDA at approximately 20 organizations including, but not limited to: USDA State Emergency Board, WV State Emergency Response Commission, Kanawha-Putnam Local Emergency Planning Committee, Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN), SIRN Region One Chairman, National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP), Southern Agriculture Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA), West Virginia Emergency Management Division, and other related organizations.
- Staff served as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 point of contact and agriculture liaison for agriculture related emergency management organizations at multiple events including the preparation for training, table-top exercises, functional exercises, full scale exercises, etc.
- Facilitated, hosted, and participated in training for WVDA's Incident Management Team (IMT).
- HSU assisted with the planning and development of rewriting and updating the numerous State Emergency Operations Plan/ESF 11, Incident Support Annex Headquarters/new appendices.
- Staff worked with the WV Intelligence Fusion Center in the development of agriculture related reports and served as a Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO).
- Implemented the appropriate security recommendations at Guthrie as a result of the completed security assessments.
- HSU hosted/facilitated/taught numerous seminars, workshops, training classes, etc. for foreign animal diseases and response, first aid/CPR classes, biosecurity, farm safety, etc.
- HSU conducts routine operation, maintenance, and repairs to numerous WVDA trucks, trailers, equipment, and supplies.
- HSU participated with the USDA and other states to plan and conduct the November 2021 FAD SAFE national exercise. This included hosting and participating in numerous classes, webinars, and trainings.
- HSU made improvements and changes as a result of the FAD SAFE exercise.
- HSU provided trucks, trailers, equipment, and supplies towards fairs and festivals including the State Fair of West Virginia, the Arts and Crafts Fair, etc.
- HSU facilitated the WVDA Safety Committee.

# FOOD SAFETY

---

“The pandemic has proven that having a safer food supply is more important now more than ever. Our regulatory staff are committed to ensuring all West Virginians have access to local and safe food commodities.”

# FOOD SAFETY

In FY2022, WVDA Regulatory officers traveled over 101,973 miles across the state to collect samples and conduct inspections. Regulatory officers also participated in several outreach activities across West Virginia for consumers, industry, and schools. These include, but aren't limited to, frozen dessert set-ups, hand washing demonstrations, school activities, judging eggs at schools, and monitoring and set-up while working many 4-H and FFA competitions. Regulatory officers attended many state and national trainings as well as meetings.

## UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Two contracts with the United States Food and Drug Administration were negotiated, signed, and initiated this fiscal year. These cover 12 Human Food Sanitation Warehouse Inspections (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) and seafood inspections. These contracts generate a total of \$11,841.00 in revenue.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a labeling law that requires retailers, such as full-line grocery stores, supermarkets, and club warehouse stores, to notify their customers with information regarding the source of certain foods. WVDA has a contract with USDA to complete COOL inspections. Three Regulatory Officers conduct these inspections that require testing and certifications prior to completing inspections. During FY2022, 23 inspections across the state were conducted that generated \$14,800.00.

## FOOD AND DAIRY TESTING

Several state laws promulgate the inspection and collection of dairy samples for analysis. Soft-service ice cream samples are collected after inspection of manufacturing sites within West Virginia and tested for sanitary conditions. WVDA issued 691 Frozen Dessert Permits in the state and 535 Dairy Permits issued for Dairy Distributors for a total fee collection of \$42,731.88. Additional late fees were collected for a total of \$8,500.00. Total revenue collected for Frozen Dessert and Dairy was \$50,480.00. The laboratory received 3,071 frozen desserts and dairy product samples for coliform bacterial counts and standard plates from 691 facility inspections.

Regulatory officers assisted 19 manufacturers of soft serve ice cream with proper cleaning and sanitizing (set-ups) procedures. Under the Frozen Dessert and Imitation Frozen Dessert Program, twenty-nine 24-hour shut down orders and four summary suspensions were issued due to product violations.

## SUMMER LUNCHES

The dairy laboratory performs contract testing for the West Virginia Department of Education Summer Lunch Program for samples collected from preparation sites and satellite sites located statewide. Food samples and milks were collected with 30 total components tested, eight tested for coliform, five standard plate counts and five tested for Salmonella species. Two milk samples were found in violation. This contract generated \$19,353.00.

## FARMERS MARKETS

The WVDA was tasked with the regulation and inspections of all farmers markets in the state. We have provided inspections, registration, technical assistance, and outreach and education to markets and vendors. During the past year, our Farmers Market Coordinator has registered 294 markets. There were 118 market inspections completed with 105 registered vendor permits and 38 vendor inspections. The Department will continue to work with the industry to provide support and assistance to farmers markets across the state. READ also provides home kitchen inspections and education.

## EGGS

WVDA received and processed 702 Small Egg Producer Permits in the state this fiscal year. Egg Distributor Permits processed for a total revenue of \$2,240.00. The total revenue for egg inspection fees assessed was \$50,241.48. Regulatory officers conducted retail egg inspections at 89 firms on 438 lots of eggs.

## PRODUCE SAFETY

WVDA continued into year six of the implementation of the West Virginia Produce Safety program. This year, the FDA cooperative agreement (CAP) award continued to focus on three key delivery areas: farm inventory, inspection implementation, and producer outreach and education.

### Accomplishments included:

- Outreach at events to more than 160,000 people statewide.
- Two trainings held at WV state farms involving produce safety related topics.
- Two Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) grower trainings.
- Met the 2022 target for outreach and education goals.
- Data acquisition and personnel postings.
- All covered farms inspected in FY2022.
- Farm inventory verification surpassed the Y1 milestone.
- A new produce inspector received training and pocket credentials.

The program spanned three divisions and 15 WVDA staff. West Virginia met all program goals for year five with a target of inspecting all covered, small farms in West Virginia. Funding for the program was provided by the FDA for \$490,000 in FY2022.

## MANUFACTURED FOODS REGULATORY PROGRAM STANDARDS

The Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) are a critical component in establishing the national Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). The goal of the MFRPS is to implement a nationally integrated, risk-based, food safety system focused on protecting public health. The MFRPS establish a uniform basis for measuring and improving the performance of prevention, intervention, and response activities of manufactured food regulatory programs in the United States. The development and implementation of the standards will help federal and state programs better direct their regulatory activities toward reducing foodborne illness.

WVDA is in the fourth year of the federal funding cycle for MFRPS and is funded \$150,000 annually by the FDA. WVDA has seven full time employees that conduct inspections for the MFRPS grant and plans to continue to sustain the current number of full-time food and seafood inspection staff. WVDA is in full conformance with the standards.

## HEMP PRODUCTS

WVDA was given authority under WV 61CSR30 to begin regulating all hemp products and hemp product vendors in West Virginia on July 1, 2020. The rule establishes guidelines for safer hemp products and provides consumer protection standards for all products sold in West Virginia. The rule applies to all hemp products, regardless of the origin of manufacture. During FY2022, the program brought in \$116,000.00 in hemp retailer applications and \$187,000.00 in hemp product applications with over 1,200 products and retailers registered.

# AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY PROTECTION

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT

“  
We serve as a consumer protection and service organization with the mission of enforcing regulations to protect the public. Our trained staff ensure consumers receive quality agricultural products and provide consumer confidence in the products that they purchase.”

# AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY PROTECTION

The Department employs five regulatory officers to collect fertilizer, feed, lime, and seed samples throughout separate regions in West Virginia. All lime and fertilizer products must be registered with WVDA before being sold into commerce in West Virginia. All regulatory officers are required to check for registration on each product that they sample and all products in the store. Regulatory officers have incorporated a “priority” sampling approach for sampling those products that have previous violations. They are sampled before other surveillance or compliance products.

## UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

A contract with the United States Food and Drug Administration was negotiated, signed, and initiated this fiscal year for six BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) Rule Compliance Inspections and six VFD (Veterinary Feed Directive) inspections. This contract generated \$16,690.34.

## WEST VIRGINIA COMMERCIAL FEED LAW

Under the Feed Law, there were 125 non-medicated feed samples, 16 medicated feeds samples and 112 pet and specialty pet food samples collected. Once collected, samples are delivered to the WVDA laboratory where several analyses may be performed: protein, fat, fiber, moisture, aflatoxin, and vomitoxin. In addition to the sampling, regulatory officers performed 178 inspections of feed manufacturers and retailers across the state. Forty-three violations were assessed during FY2021, with three embargoes issued for non-registration or non-compliance labels.

### Registration for feed products:

- Large Package Commercial Feed (over 10 lb.) 3,532 (\$39,405.00 generated).
- Large Package Pet Food (over 10 lb.) 2,230 (\$132,090.00 generated).
- Small Packaged Commercial Feed (10#/ under) 10,709 (\$481,492.00 generated).
- Specialty Pet Food (1#/under) 766 (\$15,510.00 generated).
- Commercial Feed Manufacturing Permits 29 (\$1,025.00 generated).
- Commercial Feed Distributing Permits 252 (\$2,525.00 generated).
- Commercial Feed Tonnage 284,334 (\$99,517.00 generated).

### Total revenue =

All feed, pet food, lime, and fertilizer products must be registered with WVDA before it can be sold into commerce in WV. All regulatory officers are required to check for registration on each product that they sample. Regulatory officers, in the course of their inspections, found 118 products being sold in WV that were not registered.

## FERTILIZER

Companies register their products with WVDA and the samples are analyzed in order to verify compliance with the label. One hundred seventy-four fertilizer samples were collected resulting in 58 violations. The penalties collected amounted to \$17,822.85 with \$12,969.01 paid directly to consumers. A total of 36,600 tons of fertilizer were reported sold in West Virginia. Twelve Fertilizer Formulation Permits were also issued. Two hundred ninety-nine companies registered 4,612 products. There are 129 companies registering 707 soil amendments, compost, and horticultural growing media.

The primary and secondary containment of fertilizers rule establishes standards for fertilizer for the purpose of protecting the groundwater resources of West Virginia. We currently have 18 firms holding storage facility permits. No fees are associated with this permit. A yearly inspection is completed at these firms prior to issuing a permit.

## LIME

Under the Agricultural Liming Materials Law, there were zero violations and fines totaling \$0. There are 43 lime manufacturers registered selling 94 lime products with 76,169 tons sold in West Virginia. WVDA has six licensed lime distributors registered in West Virginia and the program revenue is \$4,567.60 for the fiscal year.

## SEED

WVDA Regulatory officers performed seed inspection across the state. If a seed product is found to be mislabeled or the germination date has expired, an embargo of the seed will be issued. Regulatory officers conducted 67 seed facility inspections in which they conducted 29 embargoes this past year. There were 39 lots of seed potatoes inspected with 4,997 tons of seed potatoes sold in the state. There were no lots of seed potatoes embargoed. One hundred fifty-seven seedsmen are registered in FY2021 and 595 seed stamps for individual seed racks were purchased and mailed to retail and wholesale distributors. Seed poundage fees were collected on 8,639,967 pounds of Forest and Forage Seed along with Agricultural Crop Seed sold in West Virginia. The total seed revenue for FY2021 was \$62,574.14.

## ANIMAL FEED REGULATORY PROGRAM STANDARDS

The FDA and the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) partnered to develop the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS). The feed standards establish a uniform foundation for the design and management of states' programs responsible for the regulation of animal food. Through implementing the feed standards, West Virginia's program will be better able to achieve and maintain programmatic improvements that help ensure the safety and integrity of the U.S. animal food supply. Implementation of the feed standards also helps to ensure a uniform and consistent approach to animal food regulation among jurisdictions. The goal of the standards is to leverage resources and share common successes to build systems within state regulatory feed programs. WVDA was funded \$150,000.00 by the FDA in FY2022 for the program. The AFRPS program is in full conformance with the standards.

## PESTICIDES CONTROL ACT

Pesticides play a significant role in the protection of our food and fiber. Insects and weed pests can reduce crop output and impact a grower's ability to provide a viable and profitable product. Worker and handler training is offered for agricultural and nonagricultural industries alike to ensure safe and effective use of pesticides. Required annual agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training assistance is available for agriculture establishments. In FY2022 the Agriculture Health and Safety Coordinator provided training for 25 agriculture workers, one agriculture handler, and one trainer.

In FY2022, WVDA's five Pesticide Regulatory Officers conducted 428 inspections of agriculture and non-agriculture establishments to ensure compliance with the Pesticide Control Act intended to protect citizens and the environment. These inspections provide regulatory oversight of licensed and unlicensed applicators and more than 14,400 pesticides registered for use in the state.



# LABORATORIES

“  
The WVDA laboratories touch the lives of every West Virginian daily by protecting human, animal, and environmental health. Our scientists are world renowned in research and development efforts and identifying contaminants in human foods responsible for national recalls and global health.



# LABORATORIES

## AGRICULTURE MATERIALS

The agricultural materials laboratory analyzes a variety of agricultural products. These products include animal feed, pet food, pet and animal treats, forage, silage, fertilizer, liming material, and soil amendments. The majority of samples received are official regulatory samples taken by WVDA inspectors. The laboratory also receives service samples submitted by individuals throughout the state.

The laboratory analyzed 414 samples of animal feed, pet food, and forage products in fiscal year 2022. These samples were collected as part of the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) Cooperative Agreement and regular surveillance by READ's Regulatory Officers. Sample determinations included nutrition, mycotoxins, toxic and nutritional metals, and Salmonella. These analyses were performed for compliance in labeling, adulteration, and contamination.

The laboratory analyzed 242 fertilizer and liming material samples. The fertilizer samples were analyzed for total nitrogen, direct available phosphate, and soluble potash. The liming materials were analyzed for calcium, magnesium, calcium oxide, magnesium oxide, calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, fineness, calcium carbonate equivalence, and effect neutralizing value.

The seed laboratory's main responsibility is to ensure the quality of seed products offered for sale in the state. The laboratory also verifies the ingredients contained and potential filth in a variety of animal and human food products. In fiscal year 2022, the laboratory analyzed 61 samples for germination, purity, noxious weeds, prohibited materials, filth, and ingredient identification. Seed samples that were shipped in interstate commerce and failed the WVDA's laboratory analysis were sent to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service laboratory for confirmatory analysis.

## FOOD AND DAIRY TESTING

The dairy laboratory received 2,984 frozen desserts and dairy product samples for coliform bacterial counts and standard plate counts. Two hundred eighty-six fluid milk samples and 21 summer lunches were collected from retail sites or under contract testing.

The food chemistry laboratory analyzes a wide variety of products including ground meats and poultry, processed meats, smoked seafood products, dairy products, and several others. The purpose of the testing is to ensure that food products sold in West Virginia are compliant with regulations and guidelines set forth by the state, USDA, and FDA. The food chemistry laboratory received a total of 10 samples for nutritional analysis in fiscal year 2022. The laboratory also analyzed an additional 500 samples as part of the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) Cooperative Agreement. The samples included corn/wheat flour, corn Products, cereal grains, dietary supplements, and other various commodities. They were analyzed for the presence of mycotoxins and toxic metals.

The microbiology laboratory provides bacteriological analyses for the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division (MPID) and the commercial meat industry inspected by the MPID as outlined in the USDA rules for "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems." Sample types include carcass swabs/rinses, ground meat, ready-to-eat products, and various manufactured foods collected as part of the MFRPS Cooperative Agreement. These samples were analyzed for a variety of bacterial contaminants including, but not limited to; *E. coli*, *Salmonella* spp., *Listeria* spp., *C. jejuni*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. A total of 1,488 samples were analyzed by the laboratory with 25 samples testing positive. The laboratory also analyzed an additional 501 samples as part of the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) Cooperative Agreement. The samples included Raspberries, iceberg lettuce, ready-to-eat cheese, cut melons, dried milk, tuna, infant formula, tahini, poultry feed, ruminant feed, cat food, and dog food. They were analyzed for *Salmonella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Cronobacter sakazakii*, *Cyclospora cayentanensis*, *E. coli*, and prohibited materials.

## HEMP

The hemp laboratory works with our Plant Industries Division to test hemp samples for Total  $\Delta 9$ -THC compliance. Total  $\Delta 9$ -THC is defined as  $\Delta 9$ -THC + ( $\Delta 9$ -THCA x 0.877). In fiscal year 2022, the laboratory received 176 hemp samples. The laboratory also analyzed three plant material samples for law enforcement and 25 hemp product samples.

The WVDA laboratory can now quantitate 13 cannabinoids (including  $\Delta 9$ -THC and  $\Delta 9$ -THCA) and several toxic metals. As the amount and variety of cannabis products available to consumers continues to increase, the laboratory will continue expanding its capabilities to ensure products are safe and meet their guarantees.

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

During the fall of 2020, the WVDA started the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) Cooperative Agreement. This is a five-year cooperative agreement from the FDA. The WVDA was awarded funding for the following tracks: human food microbiology, human food chemistry, animal food microbiology, animal food chemistry, microbiology capability/capacity development, chemistry capability/capacity development, and method development and validation. These funds will allow the WVDA to update its' equipment, expand its' testing scope, and continue to improve the overall quality of the laboratory.

In Year 2, the WVDA received \$785,839. A variety of commodities were analyzed, including animal and pet food, baby formula, raspberries, lettuce, tahini, cheese, cut melon, dried milk, tuna, flour products, corn products, cereal grains, dietary supplements, and various other products. These products were analyzed for toxic metals, mycotoxins, prohibited materials, *Salmonella* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Cronobacter sakazakii*, and *E. coli*. This work led to the international recall of a tahini product. It also assisted the FDA and other state partners during the infant formula recall. The funding in Year 2 also allowed the WVDA to purchase new laboratory equipment and improve its facilities.

## ISO ACCREDITATION

In fiscal year 2022, the WVDA READ laboratories were assessed for the methods in their scope of accreditation, which includes both microbiological and chemical testing. The laboratories did not receive any nonconformances during their assessment.

The accreditation process involves the standardization of quality assurance practices regarding management and technical competencies. This designation allows the laboratory to assist the state in complying with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) and Animal Food Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS). The accreditation is also necessary to deem the laboratory technically competent in order to support analysis for USDA and FDA programs.

After receiving ISO accreditation, the WVDA laboratory has received additional contracts from several agencies and processing plants for laboratory testing.



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



West Virginia is the only state that uses a 100% voluntary approach to reducing nutrient and sediment runoff in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. As of 2022, WV exceeded the Chesapeake Bay Program water quality goals ahead of the 2025 deadline.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Environmental Laboratories specialize in the analysis of surface water and drinking water analysis, poultry litter and manure analysis, soil analysis, along with microbiology and dairy sample analysis. All laboratories participate in check sample programs for proficiency as well as certification by outside agencies.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WVDA's Nutrient Management Specialists worked this year to maintain and add new agricultural acreage managed under nutrient management plans. During this time, they worked with a total of 158 farmers, collected 1,453 soil samples, 59 manure/litter samples, and completed 139 nutrient management plans on 25,485.91 acres.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT LABORATORY

WVDA Nutrient Management Laboratory continues to analyze manure samples for nutrient content as a service to farmers and aid in the creation of nutrient management plans. The information from the manure analysis is used in conjunction with soil test results to write a plan that helps a farmer maximize crop yields as well as minimize the impact of land application on surface waters. Farmers are required to submit samples to keep the nutrient management plan current and meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The WIP includes detailed, specific steps each Bay watershed will take to meet the pollution reduction goals of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2025.

The Nutrient Management Lab also works in cooperation with the West Virginia Conservation Agency's cost share incentive programs that provide the farming community with resources to install Best Management Practices (BMPs).

## SOIL TESTING LABORATORIES

WVDA Moorefield established a soil testing laboratory in January 2016 to assist the nutrient management staff in developing nutrient management plans for West Virginia farmers. The lab achieved certification status through the North American Proficiency Test (NAPT) program in March 2016. This NAPT certification is required for soil test analysis by the NRCS Conservation Practice Code 590.

The Moorefield laboratory receives samples collected by the nutrient management staff as well as the public and analyzes each sample for a routine panel of tests, which include six analyses along with a liming recommendation.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, water quality monitoring continued on 16 streams in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

**The frequency of monitoring is as follows:**

- Three times per month - South Branch of the Potomac and Cacapon River
- Two times per month - Lost River
- Once per month - Lunice Creek, Mill Creek (Grant County), Anderson Run, North Fork of the South Branch, South Fork of the South Branch, Patterson Creek, Opequon Creek, Sleepy Creek, Rockymarsh Run, Elks Run, Elk Branch, and Bullskin Run
- The 1,960 water samples that were collected from these streams for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were analyzed by the Moorefield Environmental Laboratory for the following parameters: pH, Conductivity, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrate, Nitrite, Ammonia, Total Phosphorus, Turbidity, Orthophosphate, TKN, Fecal Coliform Bacteria, and Total Suspended Solids.

Data collected by the Moorefield Water Quality Program has been used by a variety of groups including: the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Conservation Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, West Virginia University, and many non-profits and watershed organizations. This data has been invaluable for assessing water quality trends over a long period of time, as well as guidance for prioritizing installation of nutrient and sediment-reducing Best Management Practices (BMP) on agricultural lands.

## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP)

On June 16, 2014, a new Chesapeake Bay Agreement was signed by all Chesapeake Bay Watershed jurisdictions. Over the past year, WVDA employees worked alongside WVDEP, WVCA, and colleagues in other Bay jurisdictions to accomplish the goals stated in the agreement.

Work continues with the West Virginia Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team, which began its work in April 2003. This group helps to coordinate the implementation of the state's WIP. This effort requires ongoing education and outreach to encourage participation in cost share programs and Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation projects that help to protect and restore West Virginia streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

As a result of the hard work and accomplishments by WVDA team and partners in West Virginia, positive feedback was once again received from EPA that nutrient and sediment reduction efforts continue to pay off. Water quality data collected by the USGS in the non-tidal monitoring program confirms that West Virginia has made significant water quality improvements and that West Virginia has already met its 2025 nutrient and sediment goals.

## SAMPLE AND ANALYSIS TOTALS FOR FY2022 (JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022)

Month	Water Quality		Microbiology		Litter/Manure		Soil Testing	
	Analyses	Samples	Analyses	Samples	Analyses	Samples	Analyses	Samples
Jul-21	1,992	166	454	142	118	8	738	346
Aug-21	1,387	146	384	120	236	17	810	270
Sep-21	1,932	161	416	130	162	11	432	144
Oct-21	2,088	174	438	137	235	16	0	0
Nov-21	1,308	109	250	78	221	15	0	0
Dec-21	1,728	144	378	118	103	7	834	278
Jan-22	931	118	394	123	196	13	459	153
Feb-22	1,056	161	474	148	154	11	618	206
Mar-22	1,255	189	470	147	186	12	747	249
Apr-22	1,640	181	464	145	258	17	546	182
May-22	1,640	181	467	146	146	8	516	172
Jun-22	1,259	174	470	147	238	15	798	266
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,909</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>2,266</b>

# FOREST HEALTH AND PLANT INDUSTRIES

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



It is imperative to protect our native trees and plants from the threat of invasive insects and pathogens. The Plant Industries Division operates under the authority of the West Virginia Plant Pest Act to ensure our valuable natural resources are maintained to provide abundant timber production and aesthetic value for residents of our great state and visitors alike.



# FOREST HEALTH AND PLANT INDUSTRIES

Plant Industries Division combats a wide array of native and non-native plant pests and diseases through extensive surveillance, regulatory, and control programs, many as part of federal cooperative agreements. The division is broken down into two main program units: Agricultural Pest Survey and Forest Health Protection.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) SUPPORT

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist supports all Plant Industries Division programs.

The GIS Specialist performs complex technical work in the development and operation of a multi-tier state geographic information system. Primary responsibilities include design and maintenance of spatial databases, data management, data collection, land analysis, and reporting of all current and historical spatial data for use in field operations, division reports, and public relations materials. The GIS specialist also produces digital and analog maps, manuals, data collection protocols and quality controls, within the context of geographic professional standards, agency programs, and policies. Additionally, the GIS Specialist assists other WVDA divisions by:

- Used ESRI products (such as ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, and Collector), Kobo Collect, and Avenza to manage and display all data collected by any staff member of the Plant Industries Division.
- Managed and supported mapping software on staff computers, tablets, and phones.
- Conducted analytical and statistical studies using collected spatial data for program reports.
- Managed the Forest Disturbance Mapping and Digital Mobile Sketch Mapping programs for West Virginia in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Collaborated with large research institutions on federally funded statewide projects to improve land and public health.
- Continually updated and improved data collection and viewing software used by staff through conferences and meetings with educational institutions, private companies, and state and federal agencies.
- Used meteorological data to describe forest health issues and improved data collection efforts in adverse weather conditions.
- Managed and updated website content for all division programs.
- Used staff feedback to improve field survey operations.
- Upgraded data collection equipment such as tablets and tablet accessories used in field surveying.

## AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS) PROGRAMS

The CAPS program conducts surveys for insects, plant pathogens, and injurious weeds in field crops to detect any new non-native plant pests and to monitor the impact of native agricultural pests. The program functions in a cooperative agreement with USDA-APHIS-PPQ on specific pest-control issues, supports export certification programs, and contributes data to the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) and Integrated Plant Health Information System (IPHIS) computer databases.

- Traps were set at 10 sites in eight counties for five insect pests and visual surveys were conducted for one insect pest as part of an Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Ips sexdentatus* (Six-toothed bark beetle), *Ips typographus* (European spruce bark beetle), *Monochamus alternatus* (Japanese pine sawyer), *Monochamus urussovii* (Black fir sawyer), and *Hylobius abeitus* (Large pine weevil), as well as visual surveys for *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian longhorned beetle). No positives were discovered.



- Traps were set at 15 sites in five counties for three insect pests and visual surveys were conducted for one insect pest and one invasive weed as part of a Soybean Commodity Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Autographa gamma* (Silver Y moth), *Chrysodeixis chalcites* (Golden twin spot moth), and *Helicoverpa armigera* (Old world bollworm), as well as visual surveys for the invasive weed *Alectra vogelii* (Yellow witchweed) and *Diabrotica speciosa* (Cucurbit beetle). No positives were discovered.
- Traps were set at 13 sites in nine counties for three insect pests and visual surveys were conducted for two insect pests as part of a Corn Commodity Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Autographa gamma* (silver Y moth), *Helicoverpa armigera* (old world bollworm), and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth), as well as visual surveys for *Heteronychus arator* (black maize beetle) and *Diabrotica speciosa* (Cucurbit beetle). No positives were discovered.
- Traps were set at six sites in five counties for two insect pests and visual surveys were conducted for one insect pest as part of a Small Grains Commodity Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Helicoverpa armigera* (old world bollworm) and *Spodoptera littoralis* (Egyptian cottonworm), as well as visual surveys for *Diabrotica speciosa* (Cucurbit beetle). No positives were discovered.
- Traps were set at 20 sites in 16 counties for five insect pests and visual surveys were conducted for one invasive insect as part of an Oak Commodity Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Lymantria mathura* (Rosy moth), *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak processionary moth), and *Lymantria dispar asiatica* (Asian gypsy moth). An Oak inventory was also conducted at each of the 20 sites and data was recorded for 40 trees including host species, GPS location, and DBH. Visual surveys for general symptoms of the target pests were also conducted. No positives were discovered.
- Traps were set at 40 sites in 25 counties for five insect pests as part of an Asian Defoliators Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Dendrolimus pini* (Pine-tree lappet), *Dendrolimus sibiricus* (Siberian Silk Moth), *Dendrolimus punctatus* (Masson pine moth), *Lymantria mathura* (Rosy Moth), and *Lymantria monacha* (Nun Moth). No positives were discovered.
- Traps were set at nine sites in six counties for seven insect pests as part of the Solanaceous Commodity Survey. Surveys were conducted for *Autographa gamma* (Silver Y moth), *Helicoverpa armigera* (Old world bollworm), *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Tomato fruit borer), *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (False codling moth), *Tuta absoluta* (Tomato leaf miner), *Chrysodeixis chalcites* (Golden twin spot moth), and *Spodoptera litura* (Cotton cutworm). No positives were discovered.
- Staff surveyed 32 nurseries in 22 counties for Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) collecting 325 foliage samples. Rhododendron leaf samples were also taken and incubated in run-off ponds at three sites in three counties and submitted for laboratory analysis. All samples were negative.
- Visual surveys were conducted for the Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) (SLF) in all surveys.
- Spotted lanternfly monitoring sticky bands were set in “high risk” areas near railroads and material movement. Bands were monitored every two weeks from May to October. Dozens of tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) sites were monitored for SLF across the state.
- A new SLF population was discovered in Morgan County. Delimiting surveys were conducted in an effort to determine extent of the infestation. WVDA staff have worked alongside USDA during SLF treatment and eradication efforts.
- WVDA staff implemented presentations and displays at various large-scale events including the West Virginia State Fair, the Adventure On! Festival at Summit Bechtel Reserve, and the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival. Outreach materials were distributed to multiple state parks, schools, and welcome centers. These materials give information to increase public awareness of the high-priority pests.
- SLF information packets were sent to 500 nurseries throughout the state as well as state agencies.

## PLANT PEST REGULATORY PROGRAM (PPRP)

The PPRP works to prevent the movement of plant pathogens on nursery stock produced in West Virginia and nursery products imported into the state. The program includes registration and annual inspection of nurseries and nursery dealers and the enforcement of state plant quarantines and orders. The Spongy Moth Slow the Spread Regulatory Program is also operated by the PPRP through a cooperative agreement with USDA-APHIS-PPQ. In addition, the PPRP certifies domestic and international shipments of plants and timber products.

- Registered 96 nurseries and 362 nursery dealerships and conducted 266 nursery and/or dealer inspections, resulting in the stop-sale of 42 pieces of nursery stock because of injurious plant pests, plant quarantines or lack of registration during interstate movement.
- Conducted 781 inspections and issued 2,419 USDA-APHIS-PPQ phytosanitary certificates for 4,544 shipping containers covering international log and lumber shipments.
- Conducted inspections for the purpose of issuing three state phytosanitary certificates for plant material destined for Florida, US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
- Visited 76 sites to investigate the movement of articles capable of transporting the spongy moth into not infested areas.
- Collected 275 leaf samples and visited 32 nurseries or nursery dealers in 22 different counties for the Sudden Oak Death Nursery Survey.
- Enforced the WV White Pine Blister Rust Quarantine, WV Barberry and Black Stem Rust Quarantine, WV Spongy Moth Quarantine, WV Noxious Weed Act, and the WV Non-native Plant-Feeding Snail Quarantine.
- Trace forward inspections and trapping at six sites for *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death) with the USDA. Three sites monitored late in 2021 for Box Tree Moth.

## INDUSTRIAL HEMP

PPRP Unit also implements the registration process for the WV Industrial Hemp Program, collects crop samples for THC testing, and oversees the mitigation of crops that do not meet the requirements for industrial hemp.

- 197 full licenses to grow industrial hemp were issued with for the 2021 growing season.
  - 40 varieties of industrial hemp were grown.
  - 59 acres were planted.
  - 513 lbs. of grain/seed.
  - 15 lbs. for fiber.
  - 7,918 lbs. of flower material.

## BLACK FLY CONTROL PROGRAM

The Black Fly Control Program has the responsibility of significantly reducing the black fly population in southeastern West Virginia without adversely affecting non-target aquatic organisms within the area of treatment. The control program is essential to keeping people and farms near the rivers safer from the organism's adverse bite. This is accomplished by monitoring water conditions as well as black fly larval development in southern West Virginia river system sites. Monitoring water conditions and larval development is crucial for determining the optimum time to conduct black fly control operations. Suppression activities target problem areas of the New, Bluestone, and Greenbrier Rivers.

- Conducted 12 aerial black fly treatments in 2022.
- Conducted 15 aquatic invertebrate and stream assessment monitoring trips.

## PEST IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY (PIL)

The PIL is a cooperative effort of the entomology and plant pathology staff. It complements the pest survey and detection efforts of the APS Unit by providing expertise in the identification of insects, plant diseases, weeds and other pests. The PIL also disseminates information on the pests identified and investigates problems considered significant from a biological, regulatory, or impact standpoint. PIL personnel maintain permanent reference collections and record systems of insects, plant diseases, and weeds. Pest control recommendations are provided for private individuals, businesses, and other government agencies when needed.

- Screened 38 trap samples for the presence of three exotic species of moth pests for the PPA Grape Commodity Survey. None of the target pests were found.
- Conducted *Galerucella californiensis* beetle releases for the biological control of the invasive purple loosestrife weed, *Lythrum salicaria*, in Mason, Mercer, and Kanawha Counties, for the Biocontrol of Noxious Weeds Survey program (BCCS).
- Conducted visual and biocontrol monitoring surveys for the invasive purple loosestrife weed, *Lythrum salicaria*, in Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, Mercer, and Putnam Counties for the Biocontrol of Noxious Weeds Survey program (BCCS).
- Conducted visual noxious weed detection surveys for the invasive weeds tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), kudzu vine (*Pueraria montana*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), and the Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*) in Fayette, Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, Mercer, Putnam, Summers, and Wayne Counties for the Biocontrol of Noxious Weeds Survey program (BCCS).
- Provided insect museum information requests, specimen loans, specialized insect identifications and other research related services to the US Forest Service, WV Division of Health and Human Resources, Florida Department of Agriculture, Washington State University, WV Department of Natural Resources, and WVDA personnel. Provided insect museum tour visits to WV Legislature, WV Health Department, WV Master Naturalist Program, Utah and Arizona Universities' visiting students, and the Master Gardeners Conservation Group.
- Handled 855 pest calls, 340 pest specimens, and seven literature requests. All pest specimen information was entered into the National Plant Diagnostic Network database.



## FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS (FHP)

- Conducted Thousand Canker Disease visual surveys statewide.
- Conducted statewide beech leaf disease (BLD) surveys. Long-term monitoring plots were also established at eight locations and BLD was detected in Hancock County in 2020 and has spread from original site to other areas in Tomlinson Run State Park.
- Processed numerous samples submitted by field staff, extension agents, other government agencies, and the public using various diagnostic tools such as: PCR, ELISA, culturing, and microscopy.
- Water samples were collected at four different sites near trace forward nurseries and tested for *Phytophthora ramorum*. All samples were negative.
- Continued Japanese barberry and wintergreen barberry eradication in Cacapon State Park.
- Treated 987 hemlock trees at four different sites and treatments will continue throughout the fall and next spring
- Elongate Hemlock Scale was found in five counties. Fayette, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Kanawha, Monongalia, and Preston are now confirmed positive for EHS.
- *Diplodia corticola* was confirmed in Pocahontas and Preston counties.
- Spotted Lanternfly is now present in five West Virginia counties: Berkeley, Jefferson, Hampshire, Morgan, and Mineral.
- Four long term monitoring plots were established for oak decline in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Monongalia counties.

## LYMANTRIA DISPAR (SPONGY MOTH) PROGRAM

WVDA *Lymantria dispar* (Spongy Moth) Program is, by far, the largest single Forest Health Protection (FHP) program under the WVDA. It is divided into two parts; the *Lymantria dispar* (Spongy Moth) Cooperative Suppression (SMCS) and Slow the Spread (STS) Programs, both of which are carried out in cooperation with the USDA-FS. Under the GMCS Program umbrella with the USDA-FS, the WVDA conducts the Cooperative State-County-Landowner (CSCL) Program in the generally infested area of the state. The STS Program operates in the transition zone between the leading edge of the main infestation and the not infested zone where adult males are only occasionally found.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has two objectives in its Spongy Moth Program; first, to retard the spread of the pest into non-infested areas of the state through the Spongy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Program and, second, to suppress spongy moth populations in infested areas to limit, as much as possible, defoliation and tree mortality through the WVDA Spongy Moth Cooperative State County Landowner (CSCL) Program. The WVDA Spongy Moth Program minimizes the adverse impact on West Virginia's forest resources; we preserve aesthetic values and protect people from the annoyance and health problems that can occur when in contact with large numbers of spongy moth caterpillars.

### SMCS Accomplishments:

- Forest Disturbance Monitor was used to determine Forest Disturbance areas. Ground visits were made to the disturbance areas and no acres were determined to be caused by spongy moth. Areas reported by the public or by WVDA staff were also checked in the defoliation survey.
- Ground surveyed 143,502 acres of private and state lands in West Virginia signed up by landowners and managers.
- Completed 1,043 1/40-acre plot spongy moth egg mass density surveys and the egg mass viability study.
- Visited 3,498 landowners serviced for spongy moth presence.
- Aerial treatments were not needed for spongy moth.

### STS Accomplishments:

- Set 3,953 spongy moth traps covering 9,977,412 acres.
- All traps have been removed from the field and 44,288 male spongy moths have been caught. This shows an 8.2% increase from 2021.
- Completed 6,079 trap site visits.
- Placed electronic traps at four locations which took photos of the inside of the traps once a day. These traps were part of a flight study by researchers at Virginia Tech.



## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY PROGRAM

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was introduced into the United States from China and first detected in the United States in 2014. The insect has spread since its introduction into multiple states including West Virginia. As of September 23, 2022, spotted lanternfly is found in five of West Virginia's 55 counties. These counties are Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, and Mineral, all located in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The spotted lanternfly has the potential to cause significant damage to West Virginia's forests, agricultural crops, and ornamental plantings.

WVDA has continued efforts to control spotted lanternfly in counties where the insect has been confirmed and continues to monitor areas of the state where lanternfly has yet to be confirmed. The WVDA is working to remove small tree-of-heaven by means of herbicide application and treats large tree-of-heaven with a systemic insecticide. Preparations have been made to utilize a contact insecticide in areas where the insect appears in large numbers.

WVDA has placed traps throughout the state to assist in monitoring efforts. The goal is to try and locate these traps in areas where hitchhiking spotted lanternfly are likely to appear such as high-traffic business parks, hospitals, railways, etc. WVDA Staff also complete visual surveys across the state to determine if the insect is present in areas not known to be infested. WVDA staff work to educate and provide outreach materials to the people of West Virginia so that West Virginians are informed of the pest and proper control strategies to mitigate spotted lanternfly infestations and spread.

### Accomplishments in 2022:

- WVDA staff have conducted 993 visual surveys for spotted lanternfly across West Virginia.
- Approximately 50 spotted lanternfly traps have been installed during the 2022 field season by WVDA Staff across West Virginia. These traps are to be monitored every two weeks.
- 331.8 acres of tree-of-heaven have been treated for spotted lanternfly as of 9/23/2022.
- Three large billboards have been installed to inform the public about spotted lanternfly. One of these billboards is an electronic billboard and there is a screen devoted to tree-of-heaven in addition to spotted lanternfly on this billboard.
- Spotted lanternfly literature has been distributed to approximately 130 businesses across the state.
- Spotted lanternfly signage has been placed at numerous parks and rest stops across West Virginia by WVDA staff.
- WVDA staff have participated in 12 outreach events in the form of either a booth or presentation to promote awareness of spotted lanternfly in West Virginia.



# FOOD COMMODITIES —

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



The students of WV and their nutritional needs are of the utmost importance to the WVDA Food Distribution Program. We work closely with the USDA and vendors throughout the United States to provide the highest quality and most nutritious commodities and fresh fruits and vegetables for our youth. We also strive to provide the foodbanks of West Virginia with all the available commodities that are offered through the TEFAP and CSFP programs.

# FOOD COMMODITIES

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

WVDA's Food Distribution Program provides economic support to West Virginia school-age children and to those in need through distribution of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Commodity Foods. USDA Foods help support American farmers by helping keep local agriculture strong while stimulating the economy. USDA Foods are 100% American grown and meet the highest safety and nutrition standards. Ongoing updates are made to ensure that all USDA foods meet the dietary guidelines for Americans, including reduced levels of fats, sodium, and sugars.

The USDA Commodity Foods Distribution Center for West Virginia is responsible for receipt, storage, management, oversight and statewide distribution and delivery of USDA Foods. Throughout the school year, the center receives on an average of 6,500 cases of USDA Foods weekly or an average of 250,000 cases annually at an estimated value of more than \$11.5 million. Commodity foods are delivered to 53 county school systems across West Virginia.

WVDA Food Distribution Program has supplied food to 725 public and private schools and 32 summer feeding programs. Recipient agencies included 725 public and private schools, 60 child and adult care programs, and 32 summer feeding programs held in county schools, community camps, WVU Extension, and 4-H programs.

## THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income individuals by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. During this fiscal year, a total of 17.25 million pounds were received with an estimated value of \$20 million. West Virginia's two food banks are the main recipients of these commodities who then work with 343 food pantries to distribute food to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other charitable organizations.

## THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works with 107 agencies to distribute 10,000 boxes per month to seniors aged 60 and older. This program works to improve the health of low income, elderly persons by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. During this fiscal year, 2.9 million pounds were received at an estimated value of \$2.1 million.





# AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT

“The Business Development staff work to grow West Virginia agribusiness and economy through outreach, advocacy and marketing efforts. The Business Development team’s goal is to reach out with tools and partnerships to make potential businesses aware of the services and support the WVDA and its partners can provide.”

# AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

## SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS

WVDA awarded \$270,970 in Specialty Crop Block Grants to six projects with the FY 21 Farm Bill funding. Some of the projects awarded included a risk assessment and management of the spotted lanternfly and a farmers market price reporting system.

WVDA also received Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Stimulus 133 funds for FY 21. These funds were awarded to projects that gave priority to resiliency and mitigation of COVID-19 related disruptions. WVDA awarded \$341,018.74 in Stimulus 133 funds to nine projects. Some of the projects awarded included a post-COVID expansion for a u-pick producer and enhancing production in an aquaponics system through spectrum-controlled LED lights.

## SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program certified 262 participating farmers to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to senior citizens and WIC recipients. Due to continued COVID-19 concerns, many county senior citizen centers opted to mail the applications and booklets to eligible seniors. Total booklets sent for distribution to the centers were 16,800, totaling \$30.00 each. The redemption rate was approximately 62% with the bulk purchase of apples for homebound seniors. The redemption rate was down from previous years due to an issue with finding a bank to clear the vouchers; that in turn caused the program to get started approximately seven weeks later than usual. The total impact for the State of West Virginia is approximately \$291,028.

## USDA FARM-TO-SCHOOL GRANT

WVDA was awarded \$99,997 in FY 20 Farm to School funds. These funds were awarded to continue the farm to school efforts within West Virginia, as well as work on the goals and objectives established in the Farm to School Strategic Plan. Objectives included hiring a Farm to School coordinator and pilot programs in counties ready to expand their farm to school efforts. WVDA worked closely with the West Virginia Department of Education to continue to support comprehensive farm to CNP programming including local procurement and agricultural education.

## WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

The state's branding program for agricultural products continued to grow, adding 73 members in the past 12 months. Membership growth showcased a wide variety of products including meat and eggs, value-added products, fresh produce, cut flowers and bath and body products.

In the coming year, restaurants and local retailers will be able to enjoy the benefits of membership when the Business Development Division rolls out its WV Grown Partner Program. This aspect of the program will increase visibility for food producers and will also help restaurants and retail shops that carry local items to use WV Grown branding to attract customers and increase the visibility of the brand.

WVDA staff continues to work with WV Grown producers to maximize market opportunities, including more direct sales and farmers market openings. An updated "West Virginia Grown Directory" will be printed for 2023. It will also be featured online and will provide producers with free, quarter-page entries that include photos and company descriptions.



## VETERANS AND HEROES TO AGRICULTURE

The Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program is dedicated to the integration and support of veterans and heroes entering or currently working in agriculture to benefit their health and welfare, as well as the state's agricultural economy. Through invaluable partnerships with agencies, organizations, and farmers across the state, 390 members received opportunities for education, training, scholarships, and mentorships spanning various topics and skill levels.



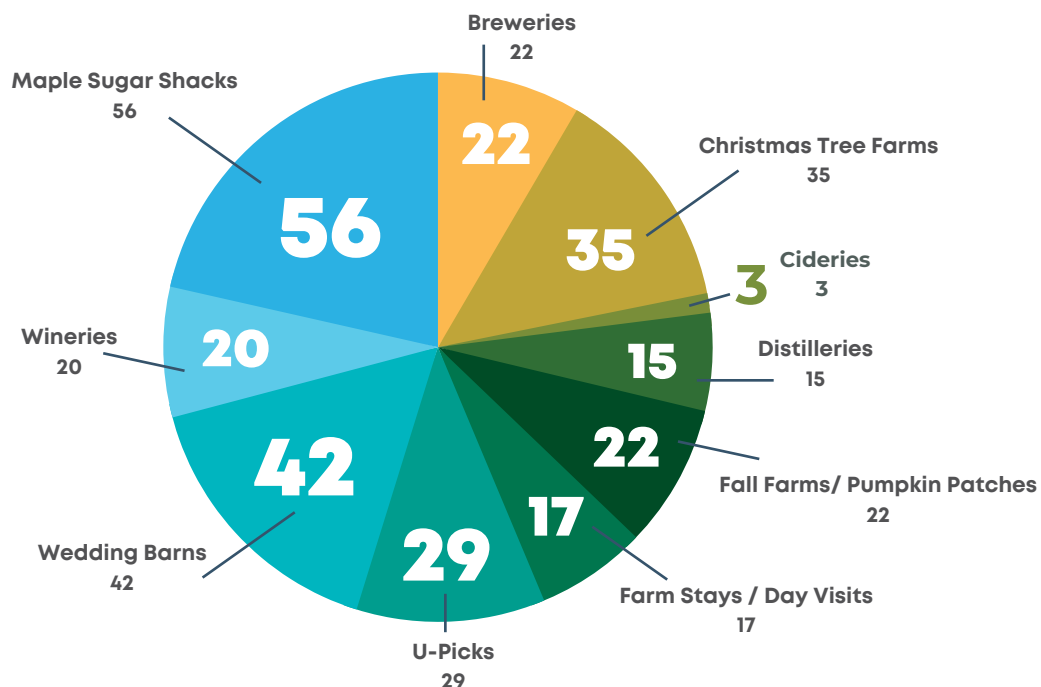
The Veterans Education Training Series (V.E.T.S.) was incorporated into the Regional Gathering this year with three events hosted around the state (Riffle Farms–veteran-owned bison farm, Vienna Indoor Aquaculture–veteran operated, and Sprouting Farms–non-profit incubator farm) and was attended by over 30 members and partners. Members heard from speakers from the USDA, the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, the Farm Service Agency, and other partners. The Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture Grant Program was developed to provide funding to organizations around the state who work directly with or provide support to law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency medical service, first responders, veterans, active-duty military, and/or their spouses and family within an agricultural capacity. Grant awards were made to three organizations totaling \$48,000.

The Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program is proud to continue to offer education and training scholarship opportunities of up to \$600 annually. WVDA was able to provide six scholarship awards to individuals across the state looking to grow their knowledge and develop their agribusinesses. The Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program also seeks to further promote the development of agricultural industries, products, and marketing opportunities across the state.

## AGRITOURISM INDUSTRY POISED FOR GROWTH

The agritourism industry in West Virginia saw an uptick during the COVID-19 pandemic as travelers sought outdoor destinations. People cited enjoying time with family, being outdoors and staying in-state as factors and influences when making travel plans. West Virginia currently has just over 200 attractions considered to be agritourism across the nine tourism regions of the state. The Department hired a full-time Agritourism Marketing Specialist in July 2020 to handle this growing sector of agriculture. One accomplishment was the formation of an Agritourism Association. It is a joint venture between WVDA and WVU Extension Service. The Association will create a larger network of operators, establish best practices for the industry, as well as create a unified voice for agritourism producers in the Mountain State.

**\* DOES NOT INCLUDE: Farmers Markets and Farm to Table Restaurants**



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

“As programs grow and evolve, one constant is the core principles of accountability, transparency, and efficient management of all taxpayer-funded resources (financial, physical, and employee). By working to make sure these values are ever-present at all levels, the organization can effectively carry out its mission.”

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The mission of the Administrative Services Division is effective management of financial and human resources as well as physical facilities for the WVDA and the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA). It also provides fiscal administrative support for related entities, including the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority (WVALPA), WVDA's Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program, and other boards and committees organized under WV Code § 19.

The three key areas of this division (Fiscal Management, Human Resources, and Building and Grounds) are responsible for interacting with all other agency divisions as well as a variety of external entities in carrying out day-to-day operations or special projects.

## FISCAL/HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Fiscal Management section is responsible for budgetary, accounting, procurement, payroll, insurance, and grants management functions of the WVDA and related agencies. For the State Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2022, the Fiscal Management section processed expenditure transactions totaling \$43.9 million for WVDA and associated entities. This section also provides key decision support and assists with the strategic planning of future agency operations by evaluating funding needs and analyzing existing resources.

Human Resources activities support the Executive Division's staffing initiatives and encompass management of personnel (including recruiting, coordinating interviewing, and hiring); managing salaries, benefits, and personal services budgeting; providing for training and employee relations solutions; monitoring wage and hour (FLSA) compliance; reporting on work-related injuries; and oversight of other leave programs such as Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Parental Leave Act, Military Leave, and Leave Without Pay. This functional area also assists with the development and review of administrative policies and position descriptions to ensure employment information remains current and compliant.

### Recent notable activities and projects carried out by this section include:

- Delivered an immersive, day-long new employee orientation to employees hired in FY 2020 and 2021 to give in-depth information on agency operations, policies, benefits, information technology, and other areas.
- Provided immediate response when a cyberattack left state agencies unable to access the UKG (formerly known as Kronos) cloud-based timekeeping system.
- Provided in-person P-Card training to agency cardholders and management.
- Provided independent monthly review and reconciliation of 9,765 P-card transactions, totaling \$3,164,938.
- Awarded 287 Purchase Orders with a value of \$9,642,16.
- Tracked over 182,000 staff hours through UKG Activity Form entries for grant reimbursement or special projects valued at \$4,811,555. This includes manual tracking when UKG was unavailable due to a cyber-attack.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Building and Grounds section of the Administrative Services Division provides professional services to ensure continuity of internal operations at the Gus R Douglass Agricultural Center at Guthrie (GRDAC, or Guthrie) and other WVDA-owned facilities throughout West Virginia. This section provides certified expertise in areas such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry, HVAC, and wastewater treatment. The purpose is to ensure the power, building climates, water, and sewer requirements of the facilities function smoothly and meet the needs of the complex. Other services include security, custodial, grounds maintenance for the safety and appearance of the GRDAC, and snow removal with salt applications for sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways.

**Some notable building and grounds accomplishments this year were:**

- Renovations to Guthrie Building 15 were made to accommodate office space for Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division (READ) employees. This included painting, installing a new drop ceiling and laminate flooring, and assistance moving multiple materials, furniture, and equipment from multiple offices.
- Renovations to WVDA’s Parkersburg facility (formerly Parkersburg Farmers Market) were completed to allow employees to vacate leased office space. This included painting, installing lighting and drop ceilings, new HVAC system, and updating restrooms.
- Staff assisted in completing the new READ Soil Conservation Building at Moorefield. This included electrical, HVAC, and carpentry work.
- Assisted in the installation of the new multi-building generator to provide backup power to multiple Guthrie buildings.

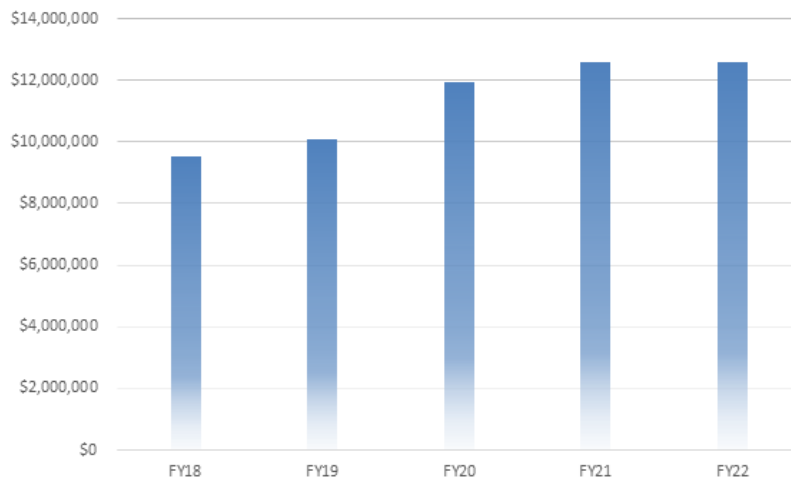
## FISCAL POSITION

Many of WVDA’s programs strive for self-sufficiency to reduce the reliance on General Revenue resources appropriated annually by the WV Legislature. This is a necessity, as the cumulative effect of past budget cuts resulted in a downward trend in baseline General Revenue funding levels for several consecutive years. At the same time, operating expenditures have risen steadily, which has required the use of Special or Federal Revenue sources to fill the gap and maintain statutory agency operations.

### General Revenue

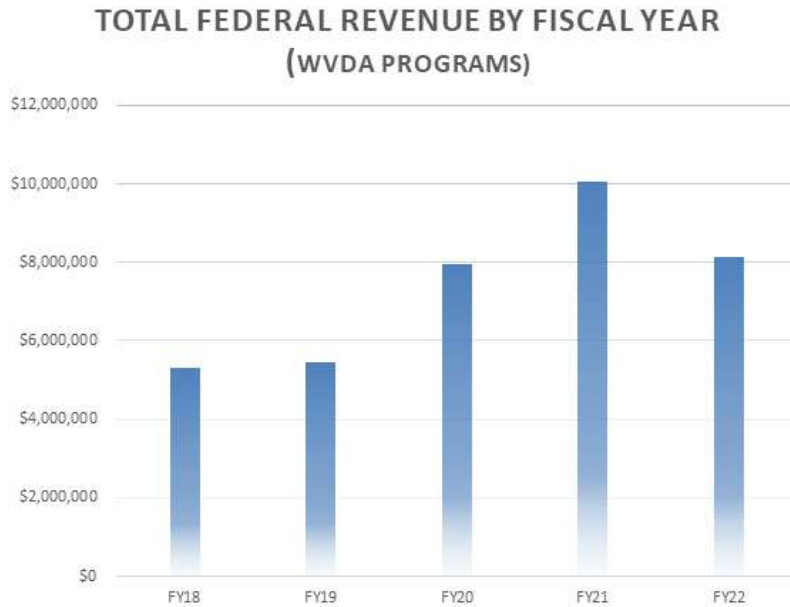
Beginning in State Fiscal Year 2019, WVDA experienced a slight increase in total General Revenue appropriations, which continued through State Fiscal Year 2021. Fiscal Year 2022 saw no increase in revenue appropriations. The increases in appropriations were not in broad, general-purpose funding categories. Instead, revenue is a result of funding that is dedicated to a very specific purpose (such as across-the-board salary increases for existing employees) or a specific program (such as the Milk Program statutorily transferred from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources).

**GENERAL REVENUE APPROPRIATIONS  
BY FISCAL YEAR  
(WVDA FUNDS 0131, 0135, AND 0136)**



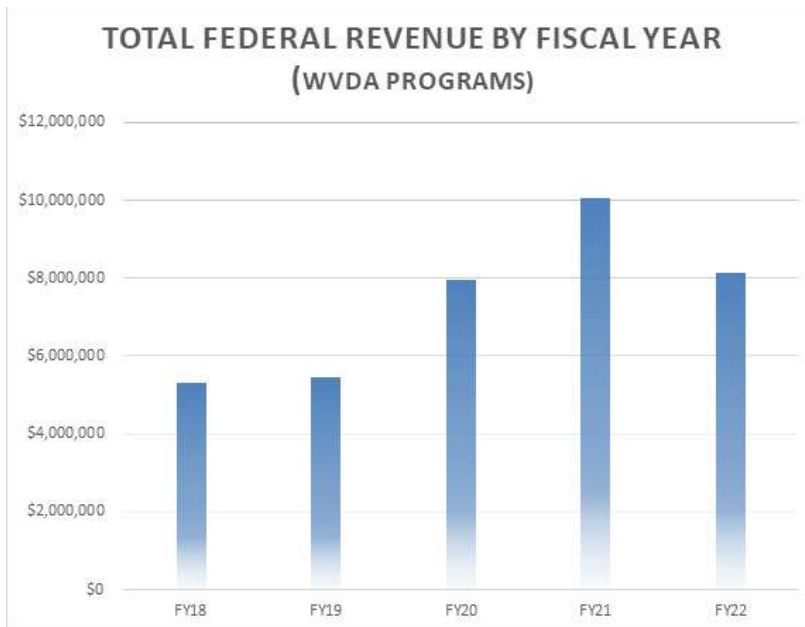
## Special Revenue

After a trend of steady Special Revenue increases in various programs in previous years, State Fiscal Year 2022 revenue suffered a significant decrease from the preceding year.



## Federal Revenue

Federal funds, in the form of grants or cooperative agreements, are extremely beneficial and critical to WVDA operations, as they support existing programs that may be un- or under-funded or provide a means to develop new programs to support the state's agriculture community which would not otherwise exist. Additionally, limited General Revenue funding is leveraged as a required match for valuable federal funds for various programs and projects. As shown by the following graph, WVDA suffered a significant loss in FY2022. This is likely due to a constriction of various specialty funds that originated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Use of federal funds comes with many benefits but also with challenges. Proper use of external funding requires extensive programmatic and fiscal management to ensure that funds are used for the intended purpose within the specified performance period, in a manner that complies with federal regulations and requirements. Federal funds are typically made available on a year-to-year basis, and the continuation of funding is dependent on the availability of funds and priorities that exist at the federal level.

# RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program (RRLP) continues to be a tool to support agribusiness in West Virginia. The RRLP Committee brings together members with financial and agricultural backgrounds, whose collective business acumen helps them understand the needs of WV's agricultural producers and carefully consider new loan opportunities. This ensures continued success of the program to help new and growing producers.



# RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program (RRLP), under WV Code §19-1-11, is a valuable program to promote investment in the agriculture industry in this state. Loans made by this program may be used for various agricultural endeavors in West Virginia, such as:

- Starting, purchasing, or expanding a farm operation.
- Assisting farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters.
- Operators that need additional resources to redirect or maintain profitable farming operations.
- Any other agricultural purpose determined important to West Virginia's economy by the Commissioner.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of one WVDA employee, along with four members of the public, including one member who owns an agricultural business, two members with business loan experience, and one member who is a CPA with a public accounting practice. The RRLP has a current total loan portfolio of over \$1.5 million, and the loan committee continues to solicit and evaluate loan applications throughout the year to support additional opportunities. Applicants apply in response to advertisements in the Market Bulletin, which is published by WVDA, through working with Agricultural Business Development department staff, and through referrals from WV Farm Service Agency representatives who are working with potential borrowers on agricultural loans in West Virginia. During State Fiscal Year 2022, five borrowers paid off existing loans and three new loans were approved.



# AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

---

“  
All people count.  
All farmers count.  
Surveys prove it.”

WVDA ANNUAL REPORT



# AG STATS

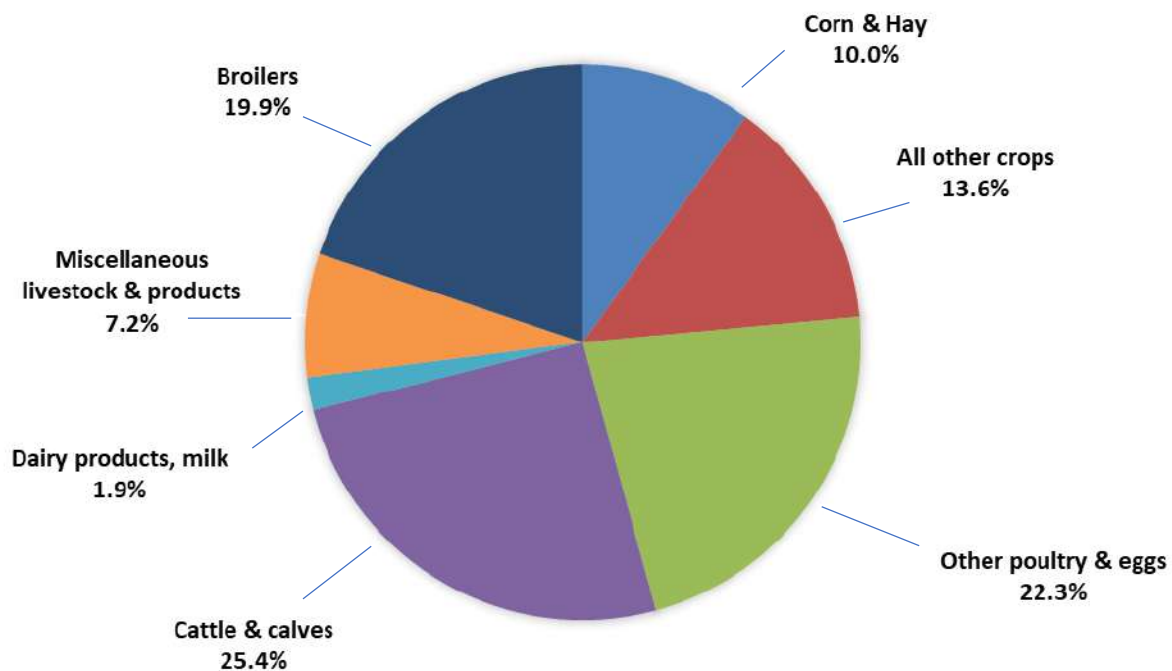
## THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is one of 29 agencies under the umbrella of the United States Department of Agriculture. NASS is responsible for making the official, unbiased estimates of agriculture in a timely, accurate, and useful manner. We have 850 employees nationwide who are responsible for the publication of over 450 reports on an annual basis, as well as the five-year Census of Agriculture. In addition, we have about 3,000 (2,400 field and 600 phone) enumerators nationwide who collect the data from the agricultural producers used for these reports.

The West Virginia field office is considered a division within the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. This relationship with the WVDA is through a cooperative agreement that has provided a working environment for joining the resources and facilities of the USDA and the State of West Virginia to accomplish mutually beneficial tasks since 1915. We have developed and actively work to ensure we keep strong, mutually beneficial cooperative agreements with State Departments of Agriculture, Land Grant Universities, Boards of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency, and Farm Bureau, to name a few, across all 50 States. The West Virginia office has two state employees, two federal, and 11 field enumerators. The hemp survey was added in 2021 and data were released in February. The 2022 Census of Agriculture is now being conducted and data will be released in 2024.

The 2021 cash receipts from farm marketing for all agricultural commodities in West Virginia totaled \$693,114,000, an increase of 52.2 million dollars from 2020. Receipts from marketing livestock and livestock products accounted for 76.6 percent of the State total. Cash receipts from crops accounted for 23.4 percent of the 2021 total. The largest contributor to agricultural marketing 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 42.0 percent of the State total. The second leading contributor was cattle and calves which accounted for 25.4 percent of the total in 2021.

Cash Receipts: Selected Commodities, West Virginia, 2021

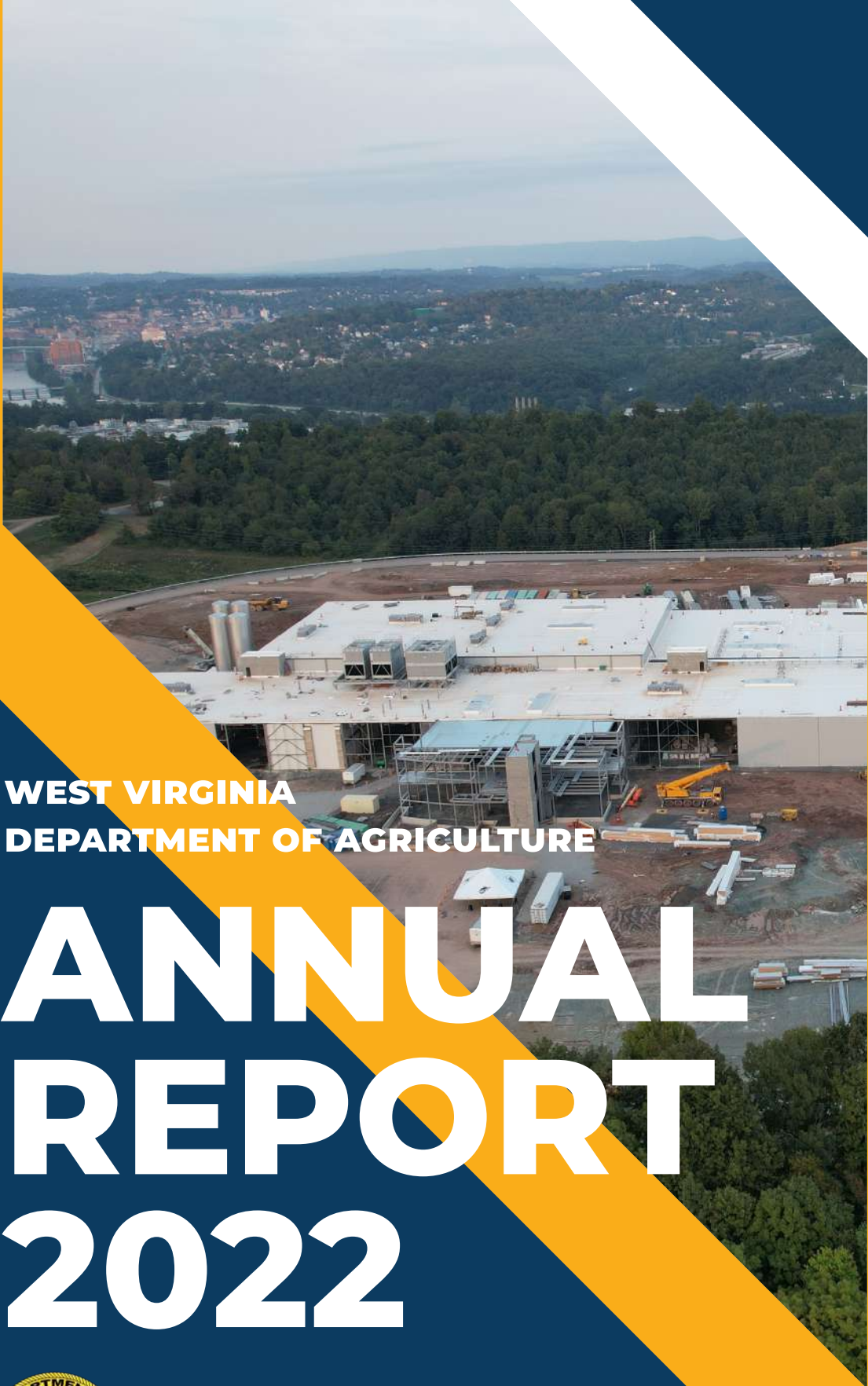


Note: Cash receipts reflect sales of commodities from farms where produced within a calendar year irrespective of the year of production. Data as of September 1, 2022. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not add due to rounding. Miscellaneous livestock and products include hogs, equine, sheep, and all other livestock. All other crops include floriculture, greenhouse/nursery, Christmas trees, oats, vegetables, tobacco, and other crops. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics.aspx>.





PUBLISHED JANUARY 2023



**WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

[HTTPS://AGRICULTURE.WV.GOV/](https://agriculture.wv.gov/)



**West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**  
COMMISSIONER, KENT A. LEONHARDT