West Virginia Royalty Owners Association Holding Statewide Meetings to Discuss Forced Pooling and Effects on Land and Mineral Owners

Once again, legislation likely will be proposed during the 2016 WV legislative session to address the issue of Forced Pooling. Many land and mineral owners have little to no knowledge of current law and what proposals are on the table regarding possible changes in those laws.

In an effort to educate the public, the West Virginia Royalty Owner’s Association has been holding a series of meetings across the state.

Several meetings are still scheduled, including: Fairmont Middletown Mall, 101 Tygart Loop, Fairmont, August 24; Glenville Inn, 61 Development Dr., Glenville, August 27; Hancock VFW, 208 North Chester St., New Cumberland, August 31; McLure Hotel, 1200 Market Street, Wheeling, September 3; Weston Moose Lodge,17 North Main Avenue, Weston, September 8; Anmoore VFD, 158 Ash Street, Anmoore, September 10.

All meetings start at 6 pm. Participants can come prepared to ask questions and learn about possible legislation, as well as laws now in effect.

For more information, contact WVROA at 304-363-0239 or email WVaMOA@gmail.com.
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On the cover

WVSDB Barn
E.A. Letherman III
Obama’s Assault on America Continues

Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau

On August 3, 2015, President Obama rolled out the final version of his new EPA regulations that will dictate the future of power generation in our country. These new rules call for a 32% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 from the 2005 baseline level. Each state will be given a state-specific goal. If states don’t submit an acceptable plan to achieve that goal, then the EPA will impose their own model.

The result of all this repressive regulation will be the closing of even MORE coal-fired power plants and the mines that supply them, as well as soaring electric bills and an inadequate supply of reliable energy, resulting in brown-or-blackouts. West Virginia will suffer more than any other state, as 95% of all our electric comes from coal.

This will be very bad on both individuals and businesses.

It would seem the President is intent on crippling the economy. He has admitted this is only the first step in a process that imposes many more greenhouse gas regulations on many other sectors of the U.S. economy.

Agriculture is squarely in the crosshairs. EPA has previously stated that 26% of all methane comes from cows and other ruminants. The most disturbing part of all this is that while our economy will be hamstrung by these new rules, China will be moving ahead with their aggressive coal-fired power plant building program. At present, they are bringing a new coal-fired power plant online about every two weeks. So, it’s no secret where manufacturing and production will continue to move to.

see Wilfong, page 21

Time to Get to Work With Tools for Trade

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

As farmers and ranchers, we know it’s tough to get the job done without the right tool. Earlier this year, Farm Bureau members spoke up to urge Congress to give U.S. trade negotiators an important tool to get the job done on trade agreements: Trade Promotion Authority. Congress listened, worked across party lines and passed TPA this summer. Now it’s time for the administration to put this tool to good use.

TPA legislation has unlocked the door to ambitious new trade agreements, and America’s farmers and ranchers have a major stake in what happens next. Our ability to reach markets around the world directly boosts the economy here at home. What we do each day on our farms and ranches creates and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in food production, energy and manufacturing across the country. U.S. agriculture exported a record $152 billion in food, fiber and energy products last year alone. But that number could soon drop off—by as much as $12 billion—if we can’t keep reaching new customers.

Breaking Down Barriers

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is in sight now and could open new markets from Asia to Canada. But the agreement can’t be a success without first breaking down some long-standing trade barriers to U.S. agricultural products.

see Stallman, page 20
Summer Excitement –

For the Michael family summer exploded with excitement as we joined our son Chris, wife Kate, and others in welcoming a new member to the clan on June 25 – our first grandson, Garrett Kentlee Michael. We praise God for His gift of this bundle of joy!

Shortly after Garrett’s birth my wife and I found ourselves engulfed in the always suspenseful and exciting State FFA Convention and Leadership Conference at Cedar Lakes. More than 800 FFA members, agriculture teachers/FFA Advisors, program donors and guests assembled for this 87th gathering of agriculture’s blue and gold family, where the theme was “Go All Out.” WVFB President Charles Wilfong recognized Ashley Shamblin, Ravenswood FFA, as West Virginia’s Star Farmer for 2015. The $500 award and plaque are sponsored annually by Farm Bureau. Our organization and its members were quite visible in terms of their efforts in “going all out” to make a positive difference in the lives of FFA members: Farm Bureau received FFA’s Distinguished Service Award; five members received the Honorary State FFA Degree – Kevin Butcher (Gilmer County FB), Delegate Denise Campbell (Randolph County FB), Dinah Hannah (Lewis County FB), Delegate Lynwood “Woody” Ireland (Ritchie County FB), Ralph Warren (Greenbrier County FB); and Don Michael (Tyler County FB) received the West Virginia FFA VIP Award.

Past State FFA Officers were again highly visible at Friday night’s FFA Foundation Auction held in conjunction with FFA Convention. In fact it was historical in terms of four past presidents in attendance – Duane Adams (South Harrison, 1982-83), David Bourgeois (Ripley, 1976-77), Jim Eisentroat (Bruceton Mills, 1979-80) and Charles Wilfong (Pocahontas County, 1978-79). These respected FFA leaders hold a unique place in FFA’s storied history, having served in a state leadership capacity for three years, with each serving consecutively as Vice President, Secretary and President. Each continued a fourth year as an ex-officio member of the State FFA Executive Committee and FFA Governing Body – a remarkable 16 years of combined service to WV FFA members . . . and they continue to devote time, energy and financial resources to move FFA forward! One side note – David, Jim and Charles are active Farm Bureau members. Back to the Foundation Auction, those present were most generous in digging into their pockets to spend nearly $8,000 to benefit those amazing young men and women in the blue and gold jackets. Since 1991 the WV FFA Foundation has been able to provide support in the amount of $242,252.27 to the WV FFA Association for member scholarships and awards, as well as leadership programming . . . all thanks to donors and those who support the annual auction. Farm Bureau appreciates the many friends of agriculture who are helping to build America’s future through FFA.

A few days prior to writing this article my two sons and I headed to Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati for three days of excitement and fun associated with Major League Baseball’s Annual All-Star Game. While we had a wonderful time filled with memories we will treasure, the most refreshing moment occurred as players were introduced for the All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game. The two teams featured baseball legends, country music and movie personalities, Olympic stars, OSU Football Coach Urban Meyer and others. BUT only two received standing ovations during introductions – Wounded Warrior participants! America’s baseball family in Cincy had it right. Their priorities were in order as they saluted those who protect our freedoms . . . and that excitement made us proud to be Americans and is a moment we will not forget from our All-Star experience.

I leave you with the conclusion from a recent email received from a friend – “The nicest place to be is in someone’s thoughts. The safest place is to be in someone’s prayers, and the best place is to be in the hands of God.” Here’s wishing you and your loved ones God’s richest blessings for the remainder of summer and the seasons to come – KEEP SMILING FRIENDS.
Motorcycle Safety: Your Official Road Trip Checklist

Matt Nicol  Sponsor Relations Account Executive
Nationwide
614-359-7342
nicolm6@nationwide.com

Preparing for a long-distance road trip takes careful planning: Deciding what to take, then strategically fitting it all into the trunk of your car. But what if your vehicle is a motorcycle?

Without the luxury of space, packing what you need for a trip on your bike can be even more challenging. We compiled a list of essentials for a motorcycle road trip from experienced riders and the Harley Davidson website. So, before you head on down the highway, here are 21 things to remember:

1. First and foremost, make sure everything on your bike is in 100% working order. It’s wise to have it serviced before you leave – fluids changed, valves calibrated, fuel system cleaned, electrical system checked, bulbs changed and tires checked
2. Carry a tire-plug kit with a CO2 tire-inflation system or a small pump
3. A portable GPS system or map
4. A full-face helmet for accident and weather protection
5. Custom earplugs to minimize wind noise
6. Extra gloves (summer or winter depending on the season and a waterproof pair)
7. Riding boots, plus overboots or rain gaiters
8. Cooling neck wrap for warm weather days
9. A heated riding suit for cold weather days
10. Rain gear
11. Protective eyewear, including sunglasses and rain/night goggles
12. Waterproof luggage
13. Bungee cords and nets to secure luggage
14. Backpacks and fanny packs that allow easy access to necessities (cell phone, map, glasses, etc.)
15. Necessary documents, including your ID, insurance and roadside assistance information
16. Trash or zip-top bags to keep items dry
17. A cover to protect your ride
18. Wrenches, sockets and other tools specific to your bike
19. Air pump, flashlight or headlamp, hazard light, cable ties, duct tape, Swiss Army knife
20. First aid kit
21. At least 2 gallons of water to stay hydrated

These items are important to pack, but completing an approved safety course can prepare you for a long road trip and could save you money on your insurance policy. Visit nationwide.com/wvfb to learn more.
Is there something missing?

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I believe strongly in the value of giving back to the community you live in. Giving back can take many different forms – volunteering for 4-H, planting flowers, donating to a food drive, reading to kids, or cooking pork rinds. For the past two years, I have worked with the Marlinton Rotary Club in cooking pork rinds to sell at festivals to raise money for community projects like our Boy Scout troop and school clubs.

Cooking pork rinds is a hot, stinky process. Dried pork rinds are cooked in a kettle of oil and the grease smell does a great job of settling on your clothes and hair. When you are done for the night, you do not make any unnecessary stops on your way back home for fear of truly offending someone with your smell, or having all the neighborhood dogs trying to eat you.

Personally, I think pork rinds taste disgusting. And it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that something made out of pork skin and deep fried in oil is not exactly the world’s healthiest snack, despite being low carb.

However, pork rinds have been responsible for changing a lot of lives for the positive in my little community. Because of pork rinds, kids have been able to travel to national competitions across the country. Because of pork rinds, flowers have been planted on Main Street. Because of pork rinds, kids who might not have received a Christmas gift had presents to unwrap. Because of pork rinds, Boy Scouts have been able to travel to our nation’s capital for the first time.

And that is pretty cool. If I can help change lives (in ways other than raising someone’s cholesterol), I can stand smelling like a walking pork rind for a few days. Volunteering connects you to your community and to the people you are serving with and leaves you with a deep satisfaction of knowing that you made a difference. It is pretty easy these days to lament the sad state of our country and its changing values. It is easy to think that as a society, we are becoming more and more removed from one another and more and more attached to our gadgets and computers.

I have a suggestion. Volunteer for something. You’ll change someone’s life. But ultimately you’ll change your own.
A cache of internal memos that federal regulators intended to keep private reveals a culture of secrecy, falsehood and dysfunction that permeated the Waters of the U.S. rulemaking process.

On July 30, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released more than 50 pages of documents in which the Army Corps of Engineers repeatedly rebuked EPA officials for their abuse of the rulemaking process in producing the deeply controversial Waters of the United States rule. The entire economic analysis used to support the rule, Army Corps officials wrote, had no basis in either science or economics.

“It is clear from the memos that there were dire concerns internally that EPA was getting it wrong and with a high degree of arrogance,” said AFBF President Bob Stallman. “The flawed economic study is just the tip of the iceberg, and it was known internally that trouble was ahead. In fact, the memos themselves were stamped ‘Litigation Sensitive.’ They were never intended to see the light of day.”

The Corps documents also validate American Farm Bureau Federation’s own concerns that the rule makes it impossible for anyone, including the Corps, to know which features on the landscape are regulated, and which are not. The Corps even raised concern that it would be difficult to determine whether “a low depressional area on a farm field that ponds water after a rainstorm for ten days” would be a regulated “water” or an excluded “puddle.” EPA insisted throughout the rulemaking process that “puddles” would not be regulated.

As the Army Corps memos clearly show, political appointees repeatedly ignored vigorous objections of career agency staff in order to rush the rule through.

“The Corps documents confirm what we have been saying all along,” Stallman said. “Even the Army Corps of Engineers concedes this rule is unworkable. The Army Corps’ name is on the rule, yet experts tasked with determining its validity said they wanted the Corps’ name removed from the economic analysis used to justify it.

“U.S. Army Assistant Secretary Darcy pleaded with Congress to keep these memos from the public eye. Well, now we know what they say, and we want to know more. What other internal agency documents are out there? If the Corps’ economists objected so strongly, what did the EPA's economists think? What else are these agencies hiding from the public? As Americans, we expect better, but during the entire WOTUS rulemaking process, we got worse – much, much worse.”

AFBF is calling on EPA to immediately withdraw its flawed rule, go back to the drawing board and address the concerns of farmers, ranchers and business owners across the country.
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With more than 9,000 female farmers in West Virginia, West Virginia University Extension Service acknowledges and embraces the large impact women have on the state’s agriculture industry. In an effort to equip female farmers with the tools they need to succeed, WVU Extension Service is hosting the second annual Women in Agriculture Conference, October 23—24, at Canaan Valley Resort in Davis, West Virginia.

The conference provides the state’s female farmer population the opportunity to gain valuable industry knowledge through networking, informational workshops and leadership development opportunities.

“Women farmers in West Virginia are crucial in preserving small farms, improving the local food system, and enhancing rural economic and social development,” said Doolarie Singh-Knights, WVU Extension Service agricultural economics specialist and co-coordinator of the West Virginia Women in Agriculture team.

WVU Extension Service’s Women in Agriculture Conference helps women farmers develop entrepreneurial skills today, while WVU Extension’s Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development programs work cooperatively to help secure the future of West Virginia’s farm industry through agriculture education and services.

WVU Extension Service’s Women in Agriculture conference offers a variety of sessions that cover topics like farm business marketing and finance “best practices,” agritourism, government relations and niche farming areas.

Singh-Knights said that female farm producers can benefit significantly from attending the conference because it covers a vast array of relevant subject matter to help cultivate a bright future for their farm enterprise. With four conference education tracks—livestock, horticulture, farm finances and farm niches, and a dozen sessions—participants can tailor their conference experience to their specific farm enterprise needs.

There will be a pre-conference farm tour on Friday, October 23, which visits several local farms that incorporate food and hay production, showcase effective marketing strategies and much more. Cost for the tour is $35 and includes dinner. Participants can opt for the networking dinner only for a cost of $25.

Early bird conference registration ends Oct. 1 and offers discounted rates of $35 for the pre-conference farm tour, $35 for the conference or $55 for both. Registration fees after Oct. 1 are $45 for the pre-conference farm tour, $45 for the conference or $75 for both. Current students can participate in the conference for $20. The conference registration deadline is October 23.

Lodging is available for an additional $109/night by calling Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center at 800-622-4121 before September 14. Attendees should mention the conference when booking.

Youths, age 5-18, can participate in daytime hands-on educational activities that engage and educate about agriculture and natural resources related areas. Cost per child is $15. To learn more or register, visit http://anr.ext.wvu.edu/ag-women/wia-conference.
Brandon Neely heard his first auctioneer as a young child and was so enthralled he determined then and there that’s what he wanted to do for a living. So he began auctioning off his toys on the family’s farm in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, using his cousins as would-be buyers. By the age of 12 or 13, he was riding along to cattle auctions a few days a week.

With years of play-auctioneering behind him, he got his first paying job as an auctioneer at the young age of 15. By his late teens, he impressed other professionals and, at 19, qualified for his first world championship in auctioneering. After graduating from Berkeley Springs High School, young Neely moved south to Alabama to hone his gift.

Now, at age 28, Neely is the reigning World Livestock Auctioneer champion, winning the title June 13, 2015 in Clifton, Texas. The contest is sponsored by the Livestock Marketing Association. “My biggest dream has always been to be a livestock champion auctioneer,” says Neely, who now lives in Southside, Alabama. “It’s a dream come true for any livestock auctioneer to be crowned. There have only been 52 world champions in history, so it makes you feel like you’ve accomplished your goals in life.” Neely is the first winner from Alabama to win the championship.
Family and friends from his home town in Berkeley Springs are very proud of their World Champion, too!

This year’s champion takes home a customized 2015 GMC Sierra truck to use during the year of his reign; $5,000 cash; a championship bronze sculpture; world champion Gist belt buckle and a hand-tooled leather briefcase from LMA; world champion ring sponsored by Clifton Livestock Commission; the Golden Gavel Award sponsored by the World Wide College of auctioneering and a James Reid, Ltd. Money clip sponsored by CattleUSA.com. Neely is looking forward to serving as an ambassador of the Livestock Marketing Association and livestock marketing industry as he travels across the United States visiting auction markets and attending industry events.

This was Neely’s ninth year of competing in the livestock contest. He’s won regional championships before and, in 2007, won the Audrey K. Banks Rookie of the Year honors from the Livestock Marketing Association. He says those eight previous visits to the competitions helped him get better. “You learn what to do and what not to do,” he says. “You have to learn things like basic presentation and bid-catching ability, and to be able to feel the flow of the crowd.”

One of the people Neely impressed early on was Lee Morris, himself a professional auctioneer and co-owner of Morris Brothers Stockyard, in Pikeville, Tennessee. “The first time I saw him, he was just a kid, but I told somebody that he would become one of the best ever,” says Morris. “I never knew he’d be a world champion, though. That’s hard to do. Morris was so struck by Neely’s skills, after opening Morris Brothers four years ago, he went after him to be a regular auctioneer at the stockyard. Morris Brothers was Neely’s sponsor for the world championship.

But wanting it and making it happen are different things. Being able to talk fast is just one of the arrows a good auctioneer needs in a quiver. Competitors are judged on things like clarity, voice quality, speed and knowledge of the product they’re selling. So you not only have to be able to say the words quickly and clearly, you must know the difference between an angus and a brangus or a California red and a Cameroon sheep, as well as the condition of the current livestock market.

“You have to have cattle savviness and know what cattle are and what they are worth, and he has to be honest,” Morris says. “People have to see it in you and believe you. He is dealing with professional buyers and they will know it right away if you are not honest.”

You also must keep an eye out across the entire room in order to catch the subtle bids thrown by the professional buyers in attendance. “It’s like any employee,” Morris says. “Some show up and do little and some show up and do it all. That’s what separates Brandon.” Having a world champion caller is good for business, Morris says, but more importantly, it’s good for customers who come to his stockyard to buy and sell livestock.

While there are schools that teach auctioneering, Neely says the key for him was finding a mentor or two who taught him the basics, then just going out and doing it. “You need time in the box. You learn by doing,” he says. “I taught myself to auctioneer, but I listened to a lot of different auctioneers, and then built my own style. “I just love doing it.”
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Agriculture relies on affordable energy to stay competitive. The cost of crude oil and natural gas directly impacts farmers’ ability to maintain a healthy bottom line, driving the costs of necessary expenditures like diesel fuel, irrigation, fertilizer, lubricants and more.

In the past five years, crude oil production in the U.S. has skyrocketed, bringing a surge of economic activity. Our country will surpass Saudi Arabia and Russia as the world’s most prolific producer of fossil energy in 2015. For the first time in decades, the once vaporous concept of American “energy independence” is within reach.

The boom has been good news for farmers, helping to keep energy prices and operating costs under control. But it has also brought some growing pains – especially in the Midwest – due in large part to the strain that greater production has placed on the region’s freight transportation infrastructure. The increase in crude oil trains has reduced the freight capacity available to transport grain and other commodities. Without action, the future of shipping agricultural goods will be defined by delays, price spikes and uncertainty.

I recently partnered with the American Farm Bureau Federation to attempt to quantify the financial impact of regional transportation strain on farmers in the Midwest. We found that the surge in crude oil traffic – combined with other factors, – caused millions of dollars of losses.
Although she’s painted red with white trim, this barn is not something you would normally see standing on a farm. The barn at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind stands tall on the outskirts of the city of Romney, and although a little timeworn, she’s still a site to be seen, inside and out.

The birth of the WVSDDB and the farm began in 1902 when 140 acres of land was purchased between what is now Route 28 and the South Branch Valley Railroad for $4,385.50.

The huge barn, which is actually three barns in one, is owned by the WVSDDB. Built in 1930, the barn housed the latest equipment and was operated by the school’s students.

Built during the depression, the cost to construct the barn was $16,662.07. Although the schools tried to get funding through the legislature, they were turned down. So, monies set aside for a rainy day fund were used to build the massive barn.

Prior to the opening of the new barn, another barn existed on campus, which held about 25 head of dairy cattle, a pig sty, and chicken house. The old barn and out structures were located roughly in the vicinity of the current central supply and school greenhouse on the WVSDDB campus. Once the new barn was finished, the old barn was torn down.

The three barns in one had room for 60 cows and eight horses, all divided in sections and separated. Two sections measure 74 feet by 36 feet, and each are connected by a third section approximately 43 feet by 30 feet. Four pens were isolated from the rest of the herd for sick cattle. There were two bullpens and two calf pens.

The central part of the upper story housed feed bins lined with galvanized iron. Two carloads of ground feed could be stored, mixed, and easily transported to feed rooms on the first floor. The loft could carry 100 tons of hay or other feed and the silo, which measured 14...
feet by 37 feet, could store 108 tons of ensilage. Feed room floors and driveways on the first floor were constructed of concrete.

The barn was a state-of-the-art project for its time. Modern milking machines were installed. At each of the cow stalls was an automated water fountain. Each cow could press its nose to the fountain to get water. Cork flooring covered the floors in the stalls for comfort and kept the cattle from slipping. An overhead conveyor belt system carried silage down to animals out of the silo. More carriers took waste and litter away, which was put in the waste treatment pit at the rear of the property.

At one time the WVSDB was almost completely self-sufficient. The kids and staff raised all the food students consumed. There was a cannery behind the administration building and what they didn’t use was canned for use in the winter. Any excess was sold to other state institutions. In January 1943, the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. requested information on production at the schools. In addition to acres of soybeans and hay, the school reported the following to the war board: Tomatoes: 1,633 bushels in 1941; 770 bushels in 1942 and 800 bushels in 1943. Sweet corn: 375 bushels in 1941; 512 bushels in 1942 and 450 bushels in 1943.

The schools also produced 10,893 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables in 1941; 11,000 pounds in 1942 and 11,000 in 1943. They made applesauce, canned pears, peaches, catsup and
tomato juice, in addition to producing eggs, milk (30,000 gallons), beef and pork.

As the use of the farm decreased, parcels of land were sold off. Acreage was sold to build the old hospital, the Army Reserve, Kinney Shoe Factory, the Potomac Center, the city sewer and the state police building. Around the 1950s the barn fell out of use.

In recent years, there has been interest in repairing and restoring the barn. A restoration committee was formed and several years ago they began repairing fencing and clearing debris from the land. Documentation is ongoing to include photos of the damage to the interior and its contents. Currently there are holes in various areas of the roof, and damage to some of the wood. The barn has been used for storage for many years, but little by little it’s being cleaned out.

Saving the barn has slowed due to the economy, but according to the current administration, there may be light at the end of the tunnel in the near future to re-kindle the restoration. As one of the schools’ staff said when the cleaning began, “It’s a work in progress. We are looking back to preserve the past while looking at the future.”

Cost to build the Three-in-One Barn in 1930

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misc. building materials</td>
<td>$4,054.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td>$2,972.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plumbing supplies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint, oil, varnish</td>
<td>$601.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>$1,076.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand, gravel, plaster</td>
<td>$115.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut stone</td>
<td>$308.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>$2,027.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tile for silo</td>
<td>$692.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn equipment</td>
<td>$3,662.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left: The loft of the barn, where hay was stored. Holes in the roof are evident here. Above, the cupola, part of the venting system. Below, a full view of the front, complete with silo.

PHOTOS COURTESY WVSDB by E.A. Letherman III, agriculture education teacher.
Well, it’s been a bit of a crazy summer weather-wise for most of us. We had a lot of rain in the early summer making it extremely difficult to make hay. Now for the past two weeks, we’ve had very little rain and everything is dry, burnt, and dusty. By the time you read this edition of the *WVFB News*, the kids will be back in school and many of the fairs will be over and we will be heading into fall full of annual meetings and holidays to fellowship with family and friends.

**WLC Annual Photo Contest**

I hope many of you have been taking pictures around your farm or at county events to submit in the Annual Photo Contest. Remember, any WVFB member (with a current membership) can submit one photo in each of the three categories: 1) Farm Bureau Activity, 2) Funny, Comical, or Whimsical, 3) Rural Scene.

**Agriculture in West Virginia Poster Contest**

I have GREAT news about this year’s poster contest. First, I’m happy to report that 24 counties participated and the posters were OUTSTANDING. In fact, there were six or seven that could have easily been the top three winners this year, which is how talented this year’s 4th graders were. The judges had an extremely difficult time narrowing it down to three. For those who have not heard yet, the 1st place winning poster was Loren Burner, Mercer County, 2nd place was Tommy Fluharty, Putnam County, and 3rd place was Madison LaVigne, Jefferson County.

Now, for the BEST news. Thanks to State Senator Kent Leonhardt, State WLC Region 6 Chair, Norma Davis and Charles Morris, Director of Museums, all 24 county winning posters will be on display for two months in the Grand Hall of the WV Cultural and State Museum in Charleston from September 11, 2015 to November 7, 2015. Letters are going out to the County Presidents and WLC Chairs to deliver this news to the student, teacher and principal of each of the county winners. This is a wonderful opportunity to show off what agriculture looks like through the eyes of our 4th graders. The top three posters get exhibited each year at the WV State Fair and at our WVFB Annual Meeting but to have all the top county winners displayed is quite an honor for the student, school, county and WVFB.

**Quilt & Gun Raffle**

Finally, for all you who collect or decorate with chickens and roosters, you will want to buy raffle tickets for the Gun & Quilt Raffle. The queen-sized quilt is a beauty this year, but I think each year’s is beautiful. Remember, you have to play to win! It would look awesome on a bed or as a large wall hanging. If you don’t have tickets, check with a director or the women’s chair in your county to purchase a ticket or two or three. The money raised helps both committees with their projects throughout the year. In fact, to raise a little more money for Women’s Leadership Committee activities, we will be auctioning another queen sized quilt in the Young Farmer’s Live Auction on Saturday evening at the WVFB Annual Meeting.

Blessings from my home to yours!

*Pam*

WVFB Women’s Leadership Chair
pjhessler@aol.com
304-839-6335
Stallman, continued

Japan’s high tariffs have, for too long, limited American agricultural products like beef, pork, rice and dairy. Japan’s outrageous 770 percent tariff on rice has effectively shut out all competitors. Much closer to home, Canada’s high tariffs on poultry and dairy are keeping those markets closed. Canada’s 200 percent tariff on dairy is not in line with the goodwill and good trade relations we have long enjoyed with our close neighbors. It’s time to open up those markets and give farmers, ranchers and consumers flexibility in buying and selling quality, healthful food.

Science-Based Rules

U.S. agriculture is also ready for serious growth in markets on the other side of the Atlantic. For too long, the European Union has let politics rather than science set trade standards. U.S. farmers and ranchers grow safe, high-quality food. But the EU has decided it can reject our products—products that have already met both U.S. and World Trade Organization safety standards—based on the EU’s so-called “precautionary principle.” Any animal treated with antibiotics for its health or fed biotech grain cannot become part of a meal in Europe, despite the proven safety of those methods—and the complete lack of proof to the contrary. Europe’s habit of ignoring science needs to stop. Last year, U.S. farmers and ranchers exported $12.7 billion in products to the EU, while the EU exported $18.7 billion worth of agricultural products to the U.S. It’s time to even out that trade balance with scientific standards and fair labeling guidelines.

America’s farmers and ranchers are ready to get to work in new markets across the globe. But Congress and the administration must continue to work together to complete agreements that will keep U.S. agriculture moving forward. The tools are in place, the roadmap is clear and it’s time to get the engine running.
West Virginia’s economy will continue to be devastated by all of this. At present, there are several mining companies seeking bankruptcy protection resulting from the current over-regulation. The situation is going to get worse, and more layoffs will result from it.

Thankfully, we have some people who are not willing to sit by and watch this happen. Attorney General Patrick Morrissey has already stepped up to lead other AGs in legal challenges against the EPA and its tactics. Many are questioning the validity of the new rules EPA is trying to enact by using an obscure part of the Clean Air Act. Hopefully, these challenges will be successful.

Our West Virginia Congressional delegation is also fighting back, looking at various ways to keep EPA in check. One thing that Congress is working on is known as the REINS Act (Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act). The purpose of this act is to increase accountability and transparency in the federal regulatory process. The Act would require any executive branch rule or regulation with an annual economic impact of $100 million or more to come before Congress for an up or down vote before being enacted. On July 28, the House passed the REINS Act (HR 427) by a vote of 243-165. All of our House members (McKinley, Jenkins, Mooney) voted for the Act. It now moves to the Senate where Senator Capito has already expressed her support.

Let’s thank our representatives for their support of the REINS Act.

Unfortunately, we will need a supermajority in the House and Senate, because the President is sure to veto the Act.
Pipelines, continued

to farmers, elevators and end users. The Agriculture Department confirms that $570 million were lost from Upper Midwest farmers’ profits during the 2014 harvest season alone. In North Dakota, the insufficient freight environment could be expected to reduce the average corn farmer’s income by $10,000 relative to a “normal” year.

Grain producers are uniquely dependent on efficient rail systems, especially in crude oil traffic “hot spots.” The nature of grain production and use renders the industry inflexible with regard to the freight methods that it must use. Grain farmers simply must have access to efficient rail in order to manage shipping costs, minimize delay and get their products to market in an economically competitive manner.

Fortunately, a clear path forward does exist.

Modern pipelines servicing the Bakken region can help provide a solution by channeling hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude oil per day off of the rails and roadways.

The merits of expanding our pipeline infrastructure are many. Pipelines significantly reduce transportation costs, are more efficient, and are impervious to weather or traffic related delays. If other industries were physically able to send their products through a pipeline, they would be delighted to do so.

Comprehensive improvements to the freight network in the Upper Midwest are needed. Rail carriers have responded well to the recent breakdown in service, devoting ample resources and energy to improving capacity and reducing delay. But in order to make the most of our newfound energy resources without compromising the competitiveness of our agricultural sector, improved transportation infrastructure devoted to energy is essential. Pipelines are an essential part of that equation.
Are **YOU** using your Farm Bureau benefits?

See [http://wvfarm.org/benefits.asp](http://wvfarm.org/benefits.asp) for full details on how you can save money!

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Family Features

After splashing in the pool, rooting on your favorite team or playing in the backyard, nothing beats the end of a long summer day like a cool, classic treat. So grab the kids, some bowls, spoons and the trusty old ice cream scoop — and dig in.

July is National Ice Cream Month, and aficionados agree that when it comes to the best tasting ice cream, “fresh” is the must-have ingredient. For nearly 80 years, Blue Bunny has been making premium ice cream using only the best, locally-sourced milk from within 75 miles and turning it into out-of-this-world ice cream in less than 24 hours.

Dial up your summer fun with the freshness of ice cream and fruit with these recipes, and find more recipes at www.BlueBunny.com.

Cherry Vanilla Crumble Squares
Prep time: 25 minutes
Freeze time: at least 8 hours
Makes: 9 servings
1 cup old fashioned oats (rolled oats)
1/2 cup whole wheat flour
1/3 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 package (12 ounces) frozen dark sweet cherries, thawed and well drained
1/3 cup all fruit black cherry fruit spread
4 cups Blue Bunny Sweet Freedom Cherry Vanilla Ice Cream, softened

In medium bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar and butter; mix thoroughly. Remove 1/2 cup and set aside; pour remaining crumb mixture in an 8-by-8-inch baking dish.

Coarsely chop cherries and transfer to medium bowl. Add fruit spread, stirring to blend. Pour over crust, gently spreading evenly in bottom. Spoon ice cream over top, gently spreading evenly. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture.

Cover and freeze at least 8 hours. Cut into squares.
**Cool Party Cubes**
Prep time: 30 minutes  
Freeze time: at least 1 hour  
Makes: 4 servings  
- 2 squares (2 ounces) white chocolate baking squares  
- 1/2 cup prepared vanilla frosting  
- 4 Blue Bunny Premium Birthday Party Ice Cream Sandwiches  
- 2 medium firm kiwi, peeled  
- 1 3/4 cups halved small strawberries (or large strawberries cut into chunks)  
- 3/4 cup fresh blueberries  
- 3 tablespoons peach preserves  
(pineapple, mango or apricot could be substituted)  
Grate or shred white chocolate with box grater onto large plate. Thinly spread frosting on one side of one ice cream sandwich, keeping remaining sandwiches in freezer. Press frosting side into white chocolate, spread frosting on unfrosted side, turn and press into white chocolate.  
Return to freezer; repeat with remaining ice cream sandwiches. Freeze at least 1 hour, until solid. (May be kept covered in freezer overnight.)  
Thirty minutes before serving, cut kiwi into thick slices, then cut slices into quarters. Place in medium bowl along with other fruit. Heat preserves in microwave-safe bowl, just until melted (20 seconds in a 1250 watt microwave), breaking up large pieces of fruit. Pour over fruit and toss to coat; chill 15 to 20 minutes.  
Remove prepared ice cream sandwiches from freezer, cut each into bite-size squares; arrange with glazed fruit in 4 dessert bowls or plates.

**Fruit Salsa Sundaes**
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Makes: 4 servings  
- 1 cup fresh pineapple chunks  
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar  
- 6 medium fresh strawberries, diced  
- 1 large kiwi, peeled and diced  
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cumin  
- 4 small firm bananas, cut in half lengthwise  
- 8 1/3 cups Blue Bunny Premium Banana Split Ice Cream  
- Fat-free whipped topping, optional  
- Chocolate sprinkles, optional  
- 4 maraschino cherries, optional  
In medium skillet over medium-low heat, cook pineapple and brown sugar just until pineapple is softened, 5 minutes. Add strawberries, kiwi and cumin; cook several minutes until fruit is heated through.  
Arrange 2 banana halves in each of 4 dessert bowls; top each with 2 scoops ice cream. Spoon glazed fruits equally over ice cream. Garnish with whipped topping, chocolate sprinkles and a maraschino cherry, if desired. Serve immediately.
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