USDA’s NASS Budget Crunch Forces Postponements, Cancellations of Surveys

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has indefinitely postponed the renewal of the Census of Aquaculture and the Tenure, Ownership and Transition of Agricultural Land Survey in order to meet its budget. NASS previously planned to conduct these surveys to gather additional data following the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

NASS also will suspend its July Sheep and Goats Inventory survey. The survey is part of a biannual program with the results published annually in January and July. Going forward, NASS will conduct only the January edition of the survey.

A notice in the Federal Register, providing detailed information about the program suspension, will soon be available.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture seeks Nominees for 2011 Women in Agriculture Award

Do you know a woman who has made outstanding contributions to Agriculture? If so, you may want to nominate them for the 2011 Women in Agriculture Award.

Induction in the West Virginia Women in Agriculture is granted to those women who have made significant contributions to the agricultural industry. These contributions have aided in the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of West Virginia Agriculture, Forestry or Specialty Crops.

The selected women will be featured in the Gus R. Douglass Annex during the 2011 State Fair of West Virginia. All nominations are due by July 10, 2011. For more information and application forms, see the WVDA website at http://www.wvagriculture.org/.

Wanted: Summer Picnic, Meeting Announcements

Summer is a busy time for most county Farm Bureaus, including planning for picnics and other warm-weather events.

To make the most of your advertising resources, don’t forget to submit your announcements to *WV Farm Bureau News*. Announcements need to be submitted eight weeks prior to the date of the event. Email them to joanh@wvfarm.org.

And don’t forget to send along those pictures and stories after your event to share with our readers!

Articles for NewsBytes must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Time-sensitive announcements must be submitted no less than 8 weeks prior to the date of the event. Electronic submissions, including photos, are preferred. Send to joanh@wvfarm.org.
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On the cover

Flags

istockphoto/RiverNorthPhotography
Real Leadership Means Making the Hard Choices
Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau

By far the biggest issue facing our nation today is the ever-growing national debt. Every day, the debt is growing by billions of dollars. We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and are mortgaging the futures of our children and grandchildren.

The national debt limit is currently 14.3 trillion dollars – approximately $48,000 for every man, woman and child in the U.S. Technically, we have already reached debt limit, but through creative accounting, the Treasury Secretary says we have until August 2 to raise the limit or face default.

The Obama administration wants to raise the limit by another two trillion dollars, to cover the projected 1.6 trillion deficit for this year. Congress must now decide whether or not to increase the limit and, if so, by how much. The U.S. House of Representatives has already voted once not to increase the limit. Now is the time for Congress to stick with that decision and just say “NO,” or at least get considerable spending reductions in exchange for a smaller increase in the debt ceiling.

The August 2 default deadline may be the only way for conservatives in Congress to leverage spending cuts. The bottom line is, government must start living within its means, just as we do as individuals.

Over the years, government programs have been started and expanded many times, primarily to secure election or re-election. We have come to expect too many freebies from our government. The only credible answer now for the dilemma we find ourselves in is to cut spending. Entitlement reforms must be enacted. Entire government departments could be eliminated. Agriculture will also have to be willing to accept reasonable cuts. We must do a better job of prioritizing programs.

When Did Food Become So Complicated?
Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Sustainability. Organic. Biotech. Big Ag. Local. Pure. These are just a few labels being tossed around freely to discuss something that I’ve always thought of as a pretty simple and straight-forward concept: Eating.

There is no doubt that a handful of people aspire to dictate what is placed on America’s dinner tables. Unfortunately, in meeting their objective, these self-subscribed food activists are turning the simplicity of food into a complex political agenda.

All Shapes and Sizes
Food. Everyone is talking about it. From food activists to the Prince of Wales – who recently made a U.S. visit for the sole purpose of telling us how to farm – everyone has an opinion on how food should be produced in the U.S.

I am an ardent believer in open debate. It’s one of the cherished rights we have as U.S. citizens. But, the advocates of the food debate are using an all-or-nothing approach, without taking into consideration consumer demand and need. Many argue that all U.S. food should be sourced locally, if not produced individually for household consumption.

With the global population expected to reach 9 billion in the next 35 years, and with the U.S. as a major global food resource, do we really want to backpedal and wipe the slate clean of years of food advancements that allow us to help feed a hungry world?

Although I am a conventional farmer, I admire agriculture’s many facets. Organic, local, biotech-free, no-till, etc., are all important and have their place in the bigger picture. Agriculture comes in all shapes and sizes from a local farm stand to a large operation.

I think National Public Radio summed it up best in a recent segment: “To [many] this is what
Members of the agriculture community, specifically those who are employed and those are sympathetic to the cause, should be deeply concerned over potential upcoming regulations that are being kicked around the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Americans were promised a pro-green initiatives presidency when Mr. Obama was elected to the White House in 2008. This has always been a heavily pushed agenda from the left-wing base in our nation. An environmentally affable country sounds warm on the surface but deep down is more about government regulation, taxation and control over the private sector. For example, in the early stages of the Obama administration many coal mining operations were put on hold as a result of federal restrictions. During this time coal companies witnessed an overwhelming increase in opposition to mining permits.

Flash forward nearly three years later and the EPA has shifted its focus towards agriculture. In early 2009 farmers were cautioned of the job-killing consequences a cap and trade bill would have on the farming industry. Nevertheless former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), along with a then-Democratic majority pushed for a vote on the energy legislation in the lower-chamber. The measure barely passed only to be tabled in the Senate. This largely happened because of the unwavering grassroots support from agriculture. Since then farmers have been recognized as one of the primary catalysts for stopping any additional future anti-agriculture legislation. Unfortunately because the bill failed to make it to President Obama’s desk, Washington proceeded to use its executive authority, along with the help of top administration officials to ensure the president’s energy policies go through.

Now the EPA is poised to strike at the nearly 400 million acres of cropland and farms through regulation of what is known as “crop dust”. As crazy as it sounds, the EPA literally intends on policing dust particles that they deem could be harmful to the environment. As if any more evidence was needed that government is not only out of control but illogically overreaching into every sector of our daily lives, this is it.

In February U.S. Senator Dick Lugar (R-Indiana) co-authored a letter to EPA officials outlining his concerns over further regulatory practices that will directly affect America’s farmers. In the letter, signed by 30 Senators, Lugar stated,

*See STINNETT, page 11*
After learning firsthand from state Farm Bureaus about recent flooding devastation in the southern United States, the American Farm Bureau Federation now estimates that nearly 3.6 million acres of farmland has been impacted by the natural disaster. On a Farm Bureau nationwide call in late May, states also reported an estimated 40 percent of this year’s rice crop has been affected.

Arkansas topped the list with a million acres affected, including 300,000 acres of rice and 120,000 acres of wheat. Illinois was estimated to have 500,000 acres of farmland under water, with Mississippi and Missouri coming in at 600,000 and 570,000 acres, respectively. Tennessee reported 650,000 acres and Louisiana was pegged at 280,000 acres.

“There is no doubt about it, the effect of the flooding on farmers and ranchers is being felt deeply across the south,” said AFBF Chief Economist Bob Young. “One is reminded of the ’93 or ’95 floods in terms of scale of affected area.”

But, said Young, it’s critical that the government acts quickly to rebuild the levees and allow producers to make plans for the future.

“In many of these areas, agriculture is the major economic driver for the region,” said Young. “While some may be able to get a crop in the ground this year, we need to also think about the long-term economic health of these farms and communities.”

Without the levees in place to protect homes and farms however, it may be hard to make those investments, added Young.
What images come to mind when you think about your family’s future? We all enjoy thinking about the hopes and dreams we have for our loved ones but we often forget to consider whether those dreams will become reality if something happens to us. Be the reason your family’s dreams come true, even if you’re not around to see it.

Here are some tips to help you assess your family’s life insurance needs and determine which type of coverage is right for you.

**Identify key life events**

As your life changes over time, there are some key events that should trigger a reevaluation of your life insurance coverage. Specific events that could change your life insurance needs include getting married, buying a new home, having a baby, starting a new job, or developing a business succession plan.

**Consider your estate planning needs**

Life insurance can be an effective way to pass wealth to loved ones or favorite groups. While you should consult a legal or tax advisor for advice on your specific situation, using life insurance to transfer wealth to people or charities can be a tax-efficient way to maximize your gift.

**Don’t be afraid to ask for help**

Life insurance is one of the most important purchases your family will ever make. An insurance professional can explain the different options and help you get coverage that fits your family’s needs.

Visit nationwide.com/wvfb for a listing of local Nationwide Insurance agents.

Consumers should know that features, limitations and availability vary by product type and by the state in which the policy is issued. Those items need to be carefully considered before purchasing any insurance products.
Stallman, continued

the future should be – fruits and veggies grown on small farms, nearby the city. But, get over it. This isn’t the future – not if we want to feed everyone.”

Where’s the Farmer?
Somehow during this food debate, the farmer has been shunned. There have been several major food summits held recently in Washington, D.C. Speaking on the panels were food activists and national thought leaders. Unfortunately, no farmers were invited to participate.

Who knows food better than those who grow and raise it? Because of the hard work of U.S. farmers and ranchers, Americans today have more food choices and spend less of their disposable income on food than practically anyone else on earth. Americans are living longer than ever before because today’s food system allows for better nutrition and food safety.

Family-owned farms make up more than 97 percent of our nation’s farms. They include small-scale and large-scale operations, as well as organic, traditional, no-till and biotech, among other production methods. The fact is, whatever label you attach to them, they are getting the job done.

The food revolution that is being sought by some may indeed come to pass, but it will not happen without genuine consumer demand and resulting market signals. And it sure won’t happen without the input of America’s food providers – farmers and ranchers.

Wilfong, continued

that are really beneficial, and enact policies that will enable our economy to actually produce products and jobs.

Excessive regulation is a large part of the reason why our economy is stagnant. This has led to staggering fuel prices, forcing layoffs and production cuts in all sectors of the economy. We must have an energy policy that allows us to use the vast resources that we have. Coal mining permits here in West Virginia are being held up by the EPA. Off-shore oil and gas drilling has been shut down as well. New oil refineries haven’t been built in the U.S. since the 70s, largely due to over-regulation. To have economic prosperity, we must have reasonably-priced energy.

At the root of all of this is having people with the fortitude to stand up and do the things that must be done. To get our country back on the path to prosperity, we must have elected leaders who will LEAD.

Let’s elect and reward those politicians who care enough to make the hard choices that will ultimately save our nation.
Planning Ahead

Deborah Miller, JD, Director of Planned Giving, West Virginia University Foundation, Inc.

Many who have planned wisely for retirement by putting money into IRA accounts now find that the required annual distributions are funds they do not really need after all. However, they must withdraw a certain amount or face a 50% federal tax penalty.

An alternative to paying the taxes is available. Federal law currently permits anyone age 70 ½ or older to make tax-free gifts from IRAs to their favorite charitable organizations during 2011.

Gifts up to $100,000 can be made by having the IRA manager transfer the funds directly to the nonprofit organization, such as the West Virginia Farm Bureau or the WVU Foundation. However, private foundations, supporting organizations and donor advised accounts are excluded.

No personal benefit from the transferred amount is permitted.

An IRA gift counts toward the required minimum distribution for the year and doesn’t impact or lessen the deductibility of any other charitable gifts made in 2011.

While regular IRA distributions are subject to federal and state income taxes, the charitable amounts escape federal taxes and most states, including West Virginia, also exempt the gift from taxes.

If you do not have an IRA, it may be worthwhile to roll-over other tax-deferred retirement account funds into a newly established IRA to make such charitable gifts.

Your hard-earned IRA funds can be a tax-free way to help your community and favorite nonprofits. That’s good planning.
West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame Inducting Three Farm Bureau Members

Three members of the West Virginia Farm Bureau will be inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame.

The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame is “devoted to honoring those West Virginians who have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of the agricultural and forestry industries in West Virginia and the nation.”

This year’s inductees include: Harlan “Ted” and Jeanne Carter of Marshall County; and James Mitchell, Upshur County.

Ted and Jeannie Carter met on the WVU campus, where they both excelled as students. After college, Ted served in Korea while Jeanne went to work as a Home Economics Agent in Mason County. In later years, Ted taught Biology, earned a Masters in Educational Administration and a certification in Counseling and Guidance, served as an assistant principal and as a high school counselor. Jeanne worked for both WVU and Ohio State Extension Services, was a staff member at the Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing, taught at West Liberty College and was a school counselor in Ohio County.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Carter have been active in 4-H throughout their lives. As a youth, Mr. Carter’s blue-ribbon registered Holstein calf projects helped improve his family’s herd. Mrs. Carter also had blue-ribbon projects, from the time she was a youth in Pocahontas County, through her University days. Together in 2002, the Carters were recognized by WVU Extension Service for their fundraising efforts in support of 4-H and Jackson’s Mill. In 2003, Jeanne was inducted into the West Virginia 4-H Hall of Fame.

The Carters were honored in 2006 by the West Virginia Farm Bureau and the West Virginia State Fair as recipients of the Farming Heritage Award. The Carters have been active members of Farm Bureau since 1981, serving on numerous committees on both the county and state level. Jeanne is fondly recognized by Farm Bureau members as the song leader at every Annual Meeting in November.

The Carters reside at “Everbreeze,” which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 70s and has served as home to multiple generations of the Carter family.

James Mitchell is a graduate of WVU, where he received a Bachelor’s degree in Forestry. For 33 years, he worked as a service forester for the Department of Natural Resources. During his career, his top-notch fire investigation expertise led to numerous convictions.

Mr. Mitchell has lent his talents to other agencies and entities as well, serving on committees, boards and as officers in organizations such as the Society of American Foresters, West Virginia Forestry Association, National Woodland Owner’s Association and American Forestry Association; as well as assisting WVU with an award-winning video on woodlot management and advising 4-H and sportsmen’s clubs with land management issues.

Mr. Mitchell started a forestry consulting business in 2002, and also runs a Christmas tree operation on his farm in Upshur County. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a two-time honor as Division of Forestry Employee of the year; WVFA Forster of the Year and the Northeastern Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year. Mr. Mitchell has been a member of West Virginia Farm Bureau since 1979, and serves on the Upshur County FB board of directors.

Induction ceremonies will be held on Saturday, July 9th at the Foundation’s annual banquet at Jackson’s Mill.

Farm Bureau members who have been honored in the past include Paul Nay, Albert Wilfong, Steve Hannah, Don and Mida Peterson, Neil Aberegg, French Armstrong, Sam Tuckwiller, Bayward Butler and Bob Williams, among others.
would prohibit the EPA “from burdening farmers and small business owners in rural America with additional dust regulations,” according to a Newsmax story.

Obviously common sense dictates that whenever an individual works above ground in soil and earth dust will be distributed as the ground is broken. Under those circumstances how does a federal agency genuinely believe it can regulate airborne dust being circulated in the air? The answer is; it doesn’t. The federal government is looking at dust regulation as one more power grab over an industry that has relied on much needed aid throughout much of its existence.

If the EPA is successful in adding more regulations to an already over-regulated agriculture industry, a lot of farmers will be out of business and a once powerful job sector in America will decline into yesteryear.

It’s time for agriculture to say no to this big-government scheme.

“Naturally occurring dust is a fact of life in rural America and the creation of dust is unavoidable for the agriculture industry. The letter continues with, “Indeed, with the need to further increase food production to meet world food demands, regulations that will stifle the U.S. agriculture industry could result in the loss of productivity, an increase in food prices, and further stress on our nation’s rural economy.”

Lugar emphasized that if the EPA pushed its National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter directive it would be extremely troublesome on rural farmers and communities.

However, the EPA argues it must regulate “dust” by way of air quality standards in order to create a more breathable atmosphere.


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The Fourth of July calls for a carefree party, with good friends, fab food, fun and fireworks — a real star-studded holiday celebration.

The entertaining experts from Wilton have plenty of ideas to add star power to the occasion, beginning with the decorations. Festive stars and stripes napkin rings in red, white and blue dress up napkins and containers of colorful blossoms to brighten up the table. Then, on to the main course. Serve an all-American favorite meal of grilled burgers and corn on the cob, appropriately topped with a star-shaped pat of butter.

The grand finale is always part of this all-American celebration. Patriotic Pops cut into star shapes definitely say “Happy Fourth of July.” Decorated in red, white and blue icing, red licorice and colored candies, these easy-to-make crispy rice treats are a favorite for both youngsters and the grown-ups. The kids can lend a hand to help decorate by placing the candy pieces on the stars.

Add a taste of nostalgia for the child in all of us with Ice Cream Sandwiches — everybody loves ’em. Homemade brownies and buttery vanilla cookies, sandwiched with the ice cream flavor of your choice are a cut above ice cream truck offerings. The new ice cream sandwich pan from Wilton ensures perfectly shaped cookies for every treat. Give them the flair of the Fourth by rolling the edges in patriotic sprinkles and sugars. Or, dip part of the sandwich into melted candy melts and decorate with sprinkles for a fun and festive finish.

Even beverages can boast the star treatment. Star-shaped ice cube kabobs in the colors of the day are a celebratory way to keep lemonade icy cold. Or, they’re perfect for chilling the holiday cocktail.

Visit www.wilton.com for more celebration ideas, to order decorating supplies, the Ice Cream Sandwich Pan or the Silicone Star Ice Kabob Molds.
Patriotic Pops
Makes about 2 dozen pops

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
4 cups mini marshmallows
6 cups crisp rice cereal
24 8-inch Cookie Treat Sticks
Red, Blue and White Cookie Icing
Red and blue candy-coated chocolates
Red licorice

Spray Star Cookie Treat Pan and rubber spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.

In large saucepan, melt butter. Add marshmallows; cook and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add cereal; mix well. Press into prepared pan; insert cookie sticks. When cool to touch, remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture. (If mixture becomes hard to work with, microwave at 50% power 30 to 60 seconds to soften.)

Outline treat as desired with Cookie Icing; add candy and licorice. Let dry at least 1 hour.

Ice Cream Sandwiches
Makes about 12 ice cream sandwiches

Brownies:
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
1-1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
2/3 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter and chocolate chips. Whisk in sugar, eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add flour mixture; stir until just combined. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

To Assemble:
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon extract, orange extract or ground cinnamon (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter. Whisk in sugars, eggs, vanilla and, if desired, other extract or cinnamon; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix until blended. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

To Assemble:
1 quart ice cream, any flavor
Assorted Patriotic Mix Sprinkles and Red and Blue Sugars

White Candy Melts, melted (optional)

Scoop about 1/4 cup ice cream onto smooth side of half of the brownies. Top with remaining brownies, pressing gently. If desired, roll edge of sandwiches in sprinkles or sugars. Wrap and freeze immediately.

Or, dip a portion of the sandwich in melted candy melts; add sprinkles and sugars. Freeze 5 minutes to set, then wrap and freeze until ready to serve.
Young Farmer and Rancher Update

Susan Wilkins, YF&R Vice-chair

On April 18, 2011, the West Virginia Farm Bureau lost a very special member. The passing of Mrs. Jo Ann Hunt of Roane County was felt across the state. The impact this lady had on countless lives over the years was evident at the visitation held on Thursday, April 21st at the old high school in Walton, West Virginia. Hundreds of people showed up to pay respects; standing for hours in a line winding out the doors, around the building, and down the hill without complaint.

Last fall at the Annual Meeting in Flatwoods, Mrs. Hunt had approached me and asked how in the world Roane County could get on the list to receive a book barn. Later that weekend, the Young Farmer Committee voted to put Roane County on the list to receive one for this year. Mrs. Hunt was thrilled – as she had a very personal connection to furthering literacy. For over fifteen years, she had worked as a school aide at Walton Elementary and had recently become an early childhood/literacy coordinator at the school through the program “Save the Children.”

Earlier in the year, the Young Farmer Committee had arranged with Ben Hays, an FFA Advisor at Roane County High School, to build four bright red barns for us as a fundraiser for his chapter. Given Mrs. Hunt’s support and love for the Farm Bureau, agriculture, children, and literacy, the Young Farmer Committee agreed that it would be a wonderful gesture to leave all four book barns in the county in memory of this special woman. (Ben also happens to be Mrs. Hunt’s son-in-law.)

Each book barn will have a small engraved plate installed on it in memory of Mrs. Hunt. We are currently working with Mrs. Hunt’s daughters and other kind folks to place the book barns in elementary schools around the county where children can enjoy learning about agriculture. A person did not have to be around Mrs. Hunt for long to pick up on her deep love for the farming way of life and for children. We hope that in some small way, these book barns will allow Mrs. Hunt’s love for both to continue shining in the years to come.
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return to: WVFB, 1 Red Rock Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201 attn: Joan
Ladies, I hope your summer is moving right along. With all this rain, it appears that everything will happen at once. I just hope it doesn’t turn really dry. However, Mother Nature will do what she will, and we will adjust, as always.

Our Food Check-Out Week was very successful, as you saw by the nice article that Joan Harman put in the *WVFB News*. Thanks, Joan. And thanks to all those who donated time, money and food to the Ronald McDonald Houses. As noted, next year’s date for Food Check-Out Week will be the third week in February. Now would be a great time to schedule Ronald McDonald or one of the other characters for your shopping or collecting day.

Ten ladies from West Virginia went to Baltimore, Maryland in April for a wonderful Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee Conference. There were about 500 Farm Bureau women in attendance from all over the country. We were very fortunate to go on a bus with ladies from Kentucky, and we enjoyed a great time of fellowship and getting to know our neighbors.

We took three gift baskets for the White-Reinhardt Fund for Education. We also took goodie bags of West Virginia information and products for each of the attendees. I received a very nice note of thanks from the WLC chair in Nevada.

During the sessions, we were urged to continue to tell our story about what we do on our farms and ranches. We had workshops on rural development, assertive communication and working with the media. We also had a variety of tours to choose from, such as different types of farming operations and historical sites, including Annapolis and Fort Henry. Unfortunately, Ethel Nash was unable to attend the conference with us, as she was recovering from a fall. We missed her very much.

Most of our counties have had their Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, and we hope they were all successful. This is such an important project and I sincerely hope it continues to grow.

Another great project is our Ag in the Classroom. I hope you were able to get to the schools to spread the word about agriculture. There is a lot of good information out there, and we need to make use of it. The 2011 Book of the Year is *Seed, Soil and Sun*. It has a really great chart with the instructor’s packet and makes a great project for use in Ag in the Classroom. Also, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture has a great book entitled, *West Virginia Farm Fun*. It’s an informative activity book that the children really enjoy. Just call the WVDA – the book is free.

Finally, if you have the opportunity to display Farm Bureau or FB Women’s activities at your local fairs, I would encourage you to do so.

‘Til next time, have a great summer and be safe.

God bless.

JoEllen
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West Virginia Farm Bureau News | JUNE 17
Mobile Ag Lab Logs Another Successful Year
The West Virginia Farm Bureau Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab visited thirty schools across the state during the 2010-2011 school year. Approximately 6,000 West Virginia students enjoyed singing songs, listening to stories, conducting experiments and learning about our state’s abundant commodities.

One of the many schools the Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab visited during the year was Moorefield Intermediate. The students enjoyed to experiment with agricultural products and discover products impact lives every day. Area community local business leaders also had an opportunity to conduct their own research during an open house.

Lincoln County Farm Bureau sponsored a visit Education Science Lab in March at Hamlin. The pre-K students there enjoyed singing songs and learning about the importance of soybeans, including how crayons are made from them. An open house allowed the community to tour the Lab as well. In addition to sponsoring the Lab, LCFB also donated a Book Barn to the school, which contained several agriculture-themed books for the children.

At Andrew Heights Elementary in Tornado, children learned about how life-saving drugs, such as insulin, are made from pigs and cows. The Kanawha County Farm Bureau and the Capitol Conservation District joined forces to sponsor the Lab visit at Andrew Heights.

Thanks to all the county Farm Bureaus, businesses, organizations and others who sponsor the Lab and make these valuable educational experiences possible for schoolchildren all over our state.
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