Tabbs Recognized by SBA as 2012 Business of the Year

The Lyle C. Tabb and Sons farm has once again been recognized for their outstanding operation. The Small Business Administration has named them as the 2012 Jeffery Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year.

The fifth-generation Tabb farm, located in Kearneysville, Jefferson County, was established in 1872. When their dairy business began to decline, the family switched gears and diversified. Today, along with 500 head of beef cattle and hay, grain and row crops, they operate a container and wood recycling business.

Lyle C. Tabb IV, the operation’s youngest partner, was honored with the West Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award in 2011.

FSA Microloans Available

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a proposed rule for a new microloan program that would be part of the suite of credit options available to farmers through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The new program would allow FSA to make smaller loans, with a principal balance of up to $35,000, and would streamline the application process to require less paperwork for farmers.

“This new program is a step in the right direction for the next generation of farmers who often are looking for smaller loans when they’re first getting started in agriculture,” said National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) Policy Associate Juli Obudzinski.

The goal of the microloan program is to better meet the credit needs of small farm operations while making more effective use of FSA resources, states USDA. Vilsack said the Department is seeking public comments on the program.

“As we expand options in agriculture, we’re seeing a new vibrancy across the countryside as younger people—many of whom are now involved in local and regional production—pursue livelihoods in farming, raising food for local consumption,” Vilsack said.

Although the microloan program announced today is not exclusively targeted at young or beginning farmers, the program will be incredibly helpful in allowing these groups to access federal credit and obtain loans to help them start their farming operations, stated the NSAC.

“Capital is the number one need of young and beginning farmers in the United States,” said Lindsey Lusher Shute of the National Young Farmers’ Coalition. “USDA microloans will fuel new farm businesses and a new generation of family farmers.”

The proposed rule may be viewed at https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/25/2012-12685/microloan-operating-loans or through the FSA home page at http://www.fsa.usda.gov.
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Challenges Ahead

Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau

Today in agriculture, we are facing many challenges and threats. We continue to see evermore excessive regulations and taxes. While dealing with all these obstacles, we are also going to be expected to increase production to keep up with the world’s ever-increasing population.

By 2050, the world’s population is expected to surpass 9 billion. That means a doubling of demand for agricultural products. To achieve that level of production, we must have policymakers who understand and respect agriculture. Regulations and tax policies will have to reflect support for agriculture production rather than the negative anti-ag positions currently being promoted.

To meet the production increases required between now and 2050, extensive research and innovation must take place. Increasing food production, while using fewer input resources and lessening environmental impact, will be essential. However, these types of advancements do not happen easily. Extensive work by our research centers and universities will be necessary. This will require a renewed commitment to agriculture. There must also be financial reward for farmers and all others involved in the process.

Achieving this needed increase in food production will not be a simple task, especially under the current cloud of economic uncertainty. As has been said many times, this problem will require the best and brightest of our people to solve. And that is also why I find so offensive and troubling the recent post on Yahoo that lists agriculture, horticulture and animal science as three of the five most useless college degrees.

These three areas of study are some of the most important subjects today. We must have our brightest young people involved in this pursuit. In contrast with... see Wilfong, page 12

Immigration War Hitting Too Close to Home

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Labor shortages have been a significant challenge to U.S. agriculture for as long as I can remember. On my rice farm in Texas growing up, it seemed we were always running short of farmhands when it came time to harvest.

But now, unlike the simpler days of my youth when we could just hire teenagers and retirees, farmers and ranchers are facing new challenges with labor issues. From border security concerns and state versus federal authority questions to I-9 audits and government-caused labor delays under the H2-A program, finding a reliable agriculture workforce is becoming more and more difficult.

From the Border to the Court

Farmers and ranchers in states like Mississippi and Arizona are currently caught in the crosshairs of an immigration battle that’s been waged over state versus federal control. Arizona took their case for state authority (based on legislation S1070) all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in May and is expecting a decision later this month. In the meantime, other states are waiting in the wings to determine the impact the court’s decision will have on them.

For Arizona farmers, S1070 is only a band aid that has been applied over the festering, underlying problem of border security and of reforming the visa program to enable farmers to get the temporary and seasonal workers needed for their farms. Farmers and ranchers who live along the Mexican line deserve a secure border and a major component... see Stallman, page 8
Something to Think About

Don Michael, WVFB Director of Governmental Affairs

High Fives – I had the good fortune recently to join Delegate Anna Border of Wood County and Kevin Ellis of Antero Resources in judging the annual youth speech contest hosted by Ritchie County Farm Bureau. Ten youth, ranging from middle school through high school, participated in this highly competitive event, with freshman Sam Nichols capturing first place and an iPad 2 provided by Antero Resources and Hall Drilling. The second place prize of a Kindle Fire, donated by Todd Molessa of Northwestern Mutual Financial Services, went to senior Breanna Hafer. Third place winner Hayley Ensminger, also a senior, received an iPod Touch, sponsored by John Bever of McCullough-Rogers and Raiguel Funeral Homes. All speakers were most impressive as they delivered five-to-seven minute speeches on topics relating to Agriculture Safety and Child Labor Laws. The contest format, competitive level and award recognition paralleled the excellence I have observed over the years with the FFA organization. ‘High fives’ are due these young performers.

The contest format, competitive level and award recognition paralleled the excellence I have observed over the years with the FFA organization. ‘High fives’ are due these young performers.

On the political front “high fives” go to the many Farm Bureau members and friends winning their primary election races last month. A member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Paul Cummings of Walton, was top vote-getter for the Roane County Board of Education. Paul dedicated his professional teaching career of 33+ years to creating premier career development opportunities for young men and women involved in Agricultural Education/FFA in Roane County. He was also very active with adult farmer instruction. Paul and his students received numerous honors on the regional, state and national levels for their demonstrated excellence in agriculture, leadership and community development. As Paul enters his second term on the Roane County Board of Education, he deserves a “high five” for continuing to go the extra mile to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

On a sad note, West Virginia agriculture lost another visionary leader May 1 with the passing of Dr. Warren G. Kelly, of Arthurdale in Preston County. Dr. Kelly taught secondary and adult students in agriculture at Masontown High School from 1945 to 1957, at which time he joined the Agricultural Education Faculty in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics at West Virginia University. Dr. Kelly was Department Chair from 1972 to 1984, serving in numerous leadership capacities on the state and national levels. His impact will be felt for generations to come through his teaching and advising of prospective and active agriculture teachers during his exemplary service at WVU. Dr. Kelly was a man of integrity, and mentor and friend to many, always serving as a positive role model through his commitment to God, country, family and his profession of Agricultural Education. I am confident God has given “Doc” His “official high five” for a job well done.

Until next time, take care FRIENDS, God bless and KEEP SMILING.
In today’s volatile market place, many insurance companies that provide farm coverage for families like yours are making changes to their policies. The worst time to find out you don’t have the right coverage is when you have a claim.

“We recommend farmers ask their agents for an insurance review at least once a year,” said Jerry Hillard, Associate Vice President Farmowner Sales, Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa. “A lot can change on a farm that could impact your coverage needs, things you may not even think about until it’s too late.”

For instance, liability coverage under your farm policy is intended to provide protection for liabilities incurred from your personal and farming activities. When you branch into other business activities, you may not be covered. For example, a grain farmer who decides to run a corn maze, or a hay farmer who adds some custom farming may need additional coverage.

That’s why it’s so important to keep your insurance agent advised of both current and planned changes in your farm activities.

“It’s also a good idea to have your agent update the values on your policy,” Hillard advised. “With the roller coaster volatility we’ve seen in commodity pricing over the last few years, there is a good chance that your inventory may be either over or under insured.”

Building costs for repairs or new construction also need to be considered, along with any major new purchases. If you’ve bought a new diamond ring for your spouse or a new shotgun for yourself, you’ll want to review your coverages with your agent.

Be sure to let your agent know about any major life changes, like marriage, divorce, death in the immediate family, or new income sources. All of these can alter your succession/estate plans which may need to be adjusted to meet your changing wishes.

The devastating tornadoes that are occurring with increasing frequency throughout the U.S. in recent years have made the message even more critical. Farmers with adequate insurance coverage are positioned to recover faster and more completely than those who are underinsured.

“Your insurance agent should be a trusted member of your team,” Hillard points out. “The more your agent knows about your operation, the better he or she is able to help protect you, your family, and your farm.”

Contact your local Nationwide agent, call 1-877-OnYourSide, or visit nationwide.com/WVFB.
Insurance Review Checklist

Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company recommends farmers meet with their insurance agent at least annually. These topics may be relevant for your discussion.

Your Home
- Additions or improvements
- New protective devices (smoke detectors/theft alarms/deadbolt locks)
- New heating units (wood burning stove/fireplace insert)
- New construction (garages/swimming pools/new fencing)

Household Contents
- Major new purchases
- Jewelry
- Firearms
- Furs
- Silverware
- Antiques or collectibles
- Other

Farm Buildings
- Review adequacy of values in light of changes in re-building costs.
- New construction since last review
- Planned construction in coming year
- Additions or improvements to existing buildings
- New storage units (bins, silos)

Farm Property
- Review adequacy of inventory limits with your agent.

Additions or deletions of inventory (peak season coverage)
- Planned new purchases during coming year
- Significant changes in grain, livestock or commodity pricing

Operations
- Changes in volume of sales or other business activity
- New partnerships, joint ventures or other business affiliations
- New acreage acquired
- New acreage acquisitions planned
- Additional business activities begun or planned
- Boarding of horses or other animals
- Numbers of employees - increases or decreases

Vehicles
- Changes in vehicle ownership
- New vehicles added
- New drivers added

Life Circumstances
- Discuss any changes in these areas.
- Marriage
- Divorce
- Birth/adoption of children
- Death of family members
- Retirement/loss of job if employed off farm
- Additional sources of income/inheritance
of that is having a visa program that allows a legal flow of workers back and forth across the border so border security officials can concentrate their resources on the illegal activities.

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports federal jurisdiction, as well as increased presence and cooperation of all branches of law enforcement on both sides of our borders, to eliminate border issue challenges facing many of our members, like theft, drug and human trafficking, as well as illegal crossing. We must secure our borders by the most technologically advanced means possible and in a way that has minimal impact on farmers and ranchers.

Stepping Off the Fence

With proposed implementation of mandatory E-verify (a system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the U.S.) in our near future, an agricultural guest worker program that addresses farmers’ unique needs has become a necessity. AFBF will only support a mandatory E-verify program if there is a workable solution for agriculture. Absent that solution, if E-Verify is implemented, agriculture faces losing millions of dollars in productivity due to labor shortages.

In hopes of finding a workable solution that meets the needs of our members, Farm Bureau created a work group charged with looking at labor challenges more closely and how best to use our policy to resolve them. Made up of Farm Bureau leaders and staff from across the nation, the work group is looking at all parts of the equation, including options that provide a secure workforce, allows portability, addresses the needs of all commodities and limits bureaucratic red tape.

Everyone is affected by the ensuing immigration battle playing out in our nation. Unfortunately, no one feels its impact more than farmers and ranchers living and working on our borders, as well as those who are continually faced with labor shortages on their farms. Band aids will not work. Congress must get to the root of the problem by providing a guest worker program that works for the entire agricultural sector.
Five FSA Offices Closing in West Virginia

Despite objections voiced at a series of public meetings earlier this year, five Farm Service Agency offices will be closed in West Virginia, beginning in July.

The affected offices are in Summersville, Glenville, Morgantown, Huntington and Keyser.

Blame for the closures rests on a number of factors, including the level of activity at each office and a 30 percent reduction in funding for the USDA. Staff retirements also had an impact. The remaining employees, however, will not lose their jobs. They will simply be transferred to other FSA offices.

“These office closures make it particularly problematic for farmers in the affected areas,” said Steve Butler, WVFB Secretary/Treasurer and administrator of the state office. “Vital FSA services will no longer be readily available to many farmers. In addition, a number of farm practices require reporting to the federal government, which mandates a visit to an FSA office. Unfortunately, the geographic characteristics of our state can make travel difficult and time-consuming.”

The Farm Service Agency is a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some of the services FSA offers include loans, conservation programs, and farm disaster assistance.
Farm Bureau Members Inducted into Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame

Two members of West Virginia Farm Bureau are among the 2012 inductees to the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) Foundation. They are: Ralph Beckwith of Slaty Fork (forestry), and Harry Stephen Conrad of Brandywine (agriculture).

Enshrinement in the WVAFHF is reserved for those individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions and foundations making outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement and improvement of the agricultural, forestry and family life of West Virginia.

Ralph Beckwith was born in Taylor County, W.Va. on June 27, 1934, and grew up in Barton in Webster County. In 1961, at the age of 26, Beckwith borrowed $1,000 on a handshake and opened a small sawmill in Slaty Fork. Today, Beckwith Lumber Co. produces 50,000 board feet of lumber each day from the same location. His family owns 65,000 acres of forest land in 15 counties, which supplies 80 percent of the company’s raw materials. The company was recognized with the “Governor’s Safety Award” in 1995 and the “West Virginia Outstanding Large Sawmill of the Year” award in 2011. Beckwith has been a member of West Virginia Farm Bureau for twenty years.

“Steve” Conrad graduated from West Virginia University in 1964 with a degree in Animal Husbandry. From 1964-1974, he was a fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy. He flew 13 different types of planes and completed 129 combat missions. Returning home, he converted the family farm to a turkey operation, also keeping about 200 cattle. He raises 76,000 turkeys each year and was instrumental in the creation of the Virginia Poultry Grower Cooperative. He is very active in his local community and his farm was chosen as the 2008 West Virginia Poultry Association Environmental Award Winner. Conrad serves on the board of directors of West Virginia Farm Bureau.

The WVAFHF Foundation will also honor the Barbour County 4-H team that again brought home a national championship in Land Judging and the reserve championship in the Homesite Evaluation contest. Under the direction of Roger Nestor, the Barbour County 4-H Club has been a dominant force in recent years, winning multiple championships.

These individuals will be honored at the WVAFHF annual banquet at Jackson’s Mill Saturday, July 21, 2012. A reception will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at the Jackson’s Mill dining hall at 6 p.m.

The WVAFHF Banquet is open to the public. Tickets are $30 each and the deadline for reservations is June 24. Tickets can be purchased from: Hope Goff, W.Va. Forestry Association, 304-372-1955; June Mandel, W.Va. Division of Forestry, 304-558-2788, ext. 51762; LeVera Gillum, WV Farm Bureau, 304-472-2080, ext. 302; Denise Hunnell, WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, 304-293-2395; or Robin Gothard, WVDA, 304-558-3200.

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Thirty one states including the state of Mississippi are currently in the middle of a major lawsuit that could have far reaching impacts for farmers all over the United States. The lawsuit, which was filed by The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), challenges state control over fair water quality standards. According to the Clean Water Act states may use either “narrative” or “numeric” standards as a method for determining water quality. Most states that make up the Mississippi River Basin use narrative language to regulate water standards. If the EPA is successful in their court challenge they would override state control by enforcing numerical regulations in every state within the region.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), along with over a dozen other pro-agriculture organizations has expressed opposition to the EPA’s goal. These organizations believe the EPA could set up unachievable goals for states.

AFBF President Bob Stallman issued a scathing statement over the potential of future unmitigated federal regulations. “Farmers have no reason to believe that EPA could establish scientifically defensible standards for any one state, much less for 40 percent of the U.S. land mass,” he said.

The Clean Water Act, established in 1972, gives the federal government the power to regulate water pollution. Over the years amendments to the law have given more flexibility to individual states that have sought a working relationship with the EPA. This particular case has far-reaching ramifications should the court side with the EPA. The Mississippi River Basin covers more than 40% of the lower 48 US states and is considered one of the most prosperous agriculture centers. Since agriculture is one of the top industries in this region farmers should be worried about unachievable water regulations and more legal battles in the near future.

In the past EPA officials have generally ruled out court challenges instead working with states on the development of new pollution control technologies. However, over the last couple of decades environmental groups have been arguing for more federal control over states. Recent added pressure from left wing groups coupled with a radical liberal environmental agenda from the White House has resulted in more anti-agriculture rules.

We all agree that pollution is dangerous to our water and food systems here in America. What we don’t need is a federal regulatory system in which a government agency makes up its own numbers in order to increase fines and penalties on private

*see Stinnett, page 16*
Yeager Rides with RFD-TV Show

Wetzel County Farm Bureau member Robyn Yeager traveled to Culpeper, Virginia to participate in a special trail riding trip for RFD-TV’s *Best of America by Horseback* at the farm of Tom & Pat Seay May 17-20th. Yeager participated along with 40 other riders in the Trail Challenge. Yeager also took part in Team Cattle Penning, Dutch Henry’s “Relax & Release” clinic, and the filming of an upcoming episode of the show. This makes Yeager’s 13th appearance on the TV show.

Six years ago Robyn nearly lost her life in a horseback riding accident, so to see her back on her horses and riding on national TV on the most popular trail riding show is amazing. Robyn began riding with Seay in 2007 at Smoke Rise Ranch in Ohio before she was able to even walk again - just 6 months after her second major surgery. She never gave up on getting back to riding.

Other members of the family have also appeared on the show with Robyn -- her mom, niece Samantha and cousins Dutch and Jonathan Brown.

Yeager’s next trip with *Best of America* will be at Grayson Highlands State Park at the Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, where she will be participating in the “Tribute to the Trail Rider” 1000th episode.

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Address____________________________________
City/State/Zip________________________________

Enclosed is my check made out to WVFB, or charge to my credit card:

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Card # ________________________ Security code_________
Exp. date___________________

Mail to: WVFB Cookbook, 1 Red Rock Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201 No phone orders, please.

Wilfong, continued

Yahoo’s article, principals in the agriculture industry that I am in contact with say the demand for agriculture professionals is going to outpace the number of people available and qualified to fill those positions.

As an organization, we in Farm Bureau must continue to make our youth aware of all the agriculture-related careers available to them. I applaud the many county Farm Bureau organizations across our state that are providing scholarships to support local students in pursuit of these careers.

Ag Field Day for Farmers

A free Ag Field Day at the Reedsville Experiment Farm in Preston County will be held Saturday, July 7th. The day will include visits to field sites (weather permitting) led by investigators performing research at the Reedsville facility, followed by a presentation of the experiment, discussion and Q&A. More discussion will take place during the lunch break.

Registration deadline is June 29. For full details, see https://sites.google.com/site/reedsvillefieldday or call Ben Nemeth at 304.997.2662.
Planning Ahead

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

After all of the appropriate documents are signed and you let out a sigh of relief, one additional aspect of estate planning is communicating your ideas and plans to loved ones.

Rather than taking the stance of “they’ll figure it all out when it’s time,” it can be more helpful to go over what you want to have done with those who will be involved.

This can be difficult to do, but discussing your medical and financial power of attorney documents, your funeral planning, and your choices for medical care can help your family understand what you want and why. It is appropriate to provide originals or copies of the documents. Keeping it all “top secret” can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts later on.

Also, choosing to explain the content of your will or revocable trust can be beneficial, especially to those who will serve as your executor(s) or successor trustee(s). They may have questions that allow you to clear up your intent.

It is helpful to discuss what assets will be a part of your estate to be sure any specific directions you want to give are passed on.

Asking these individuals you communicate with to keep your plans confidential, since the documents can be changed, is fine to do.

Your charitable beneficiaries will definitely appreciate your letting them know of the future gifts you have planned, and this will give them the opportunity to express their gratitude to you.

To make things easier later, you should have a list of where important papers, including deeds, checkbooks, financial account statements, tax returns, and the like, are located. Adding your computer and website passwords and location of keys can help then.

Providing personal insights about your plans can show others that you have chosen wisely, and they can understand your priorities better. Knowing that your plans will be honored can provide peace of mind to you.

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- Available integrated trailer brake controller
- Standard Electronic Stability Control (ESC) on all single rear wheel models
- Unlike our competitors, Ram Heavy Duty Pickups require no Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) system
- Standard Class IV trailer hitch and 4- and 7-pin trailer connectors
- Standard Class-Exclusive 6-speed manual transmission, available
- Class Exclusive RamBox System (available)
- Available innovative class-exclusive RamBox Cargo Management System with dry, lockable, and lighted storage bins, cargo bed extender/divider, cargo bed rails, and adjustable cleats (single rear wheel models with 6'4" boxes only; late availability)
- Standard Class-Exclusive rear in-floor storage bins on Crew Cab
- Standard multistage front air bags (6)
- Standard supplemental side-curtain air bags (6)
- Standard Tire Pressure Monitoring (2500)
- Standard Electronic Stability Control (ESC) on all single rear wheel models
- Available electronic-over-hydraulic trailer brake controller capability
- Available ParkSense Rear Park Assist and ParkView Rear Back-Up Camera

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As the school year comes to an end, what will the nation’s youth do over the summer? Some will travel, others will attend camps, and many will seek employment. Only a select few will choose to work on local farms. However, research has shown that youth who work on a farm are more likely to develop better work ethics, adapt to fast paced working conditions, form tighter alliances with fellow coworkers and be healthier overall.

As the school year comes to an end, what will the nation’s youth do over the summer? Some will travel, others will attend camps, and many will seek employment. Only a select few will choose to work on local farms. However, research has shown that youth who work on a farm are more likely to develop better work ethics, adapt to fast paced working conditions, form tighter alliances with fellow coworkers and be healthier overall.

One attraction often cited about farm work is the feeling of independence one gains from agriculture; watching livestock or crops grow as a direct result of one’s labor. Granted, obtaining a job at a fast food place might be a lot easier, but individuals will not gain the skills and knowledge that can be attained by working on a farm. In addition, many youth who do work on a farm during the summer will stay on their family farm. This is significant for the future of agriculture. Around 85% of US farms are family owned and operated. This number is steadily declining due to a number of factors – increasing regulation, the lure of land prices for urban development, rising fuel and fertilizer costs, and more. If more youth become involved in agriculture and see the impact it has on the world, the trend to sell out may be reversed.

In addition to producing high-quality food, family farms serve as stewards of the land and play a vital role in rural economies. However, it can be difficult for young people to become established in farming. Hardships that farmers must overcome include unstable income, increasing...
LIVESTOCK GROSS MARGIN DAIRY
(LGM-Dairy)

LGM Dairy Cattle insurance provides protection to dairy producers when feed costs rise or milk prices drop. Gross margin is the market value of milk minus feed costs. LGM Dairy uses futures prices for corn, soybean meal, and milk to determine the expected gross margin and the actual gross margin.

WHAT IS COVERED?
LGM Dairy covers the difference between the gross margin guarantee and the actual gross margin. Indemnity payments will equal the difference between the gross margin guarantee and the actual total gross margin for the insurance period.

LGM-Dairy Does Not Cover: Risk of dairy cattle death, unexpected production (milk) losses, unexpected increase in feed use, anticipated or multiple-year declines in milk prices, anticipated or multiple-year increases in feed costs.

WHEN AND HOW DO I SIGN-UP?
The insurance period contains the 11 months following the sales closing date. For example, a sales closing date in January has an insurance period of February through December. However, coverage begins in the second month of the insurance period. In this example, the coverage will be from March through December.

To learn more about these and other crop insurance products visit the WV Small Farm Center’s Risk Management Tools at http://smallfarmcenter.ext.wvu.edu/cropinsurance

CONTACT A CROP INSURANCE AGENT OR: Tom McConnell
Program Leader, WV Small Farm Center
(Phone) 304-293-2642
(Fax) 304-293-6954
(Email) TRMcConnell@mail.wvu.edu

VISIT THE AGENT LOCATOR TO FIND AN INSURANCE AGENT:
http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/

Biser, continued

prices and unpredictable weather. But there are programs available to aid the younger generation. Encouraging youth to become actively involved in agriculture and the family farm will help them be better adapted and therefore be more likely to succeed.

Nothing this world can offer even comes close to watching the sun set over the forest, smelling freshly cut hay or saving a calf from sure death. These are all encounters you can’t appreciate until you have experienced them. Therefore, encourage your sons, daughters, nephews and nieces to work on the farm this summer. It will be a decision you won’t regret.

Stinnett, continued

industries.

In May, U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) reiterated the danger of allowing the EPA to enforce egregious rules from data it has created.

“This administration has finalized 1,330 rules that have been deemed ‘economically significant’ — those with an annual impact on the economy of $100 million or more — and they’ve proposed over 1,300 additional economically significant rules,” Barrasso said.

The truth is for decades liberal groups have criticized the private sector by attacking industries they do not agree with politically. They have no regard for jobs, family security or the economic benefits these companies provide. They claim industries like agriculture harm the environment but fail to recognize the economic impact if these farms were to go away. Like the coal industry, environmental groups will stay in the ear of this current administration until it is regulated out of existence. Ironically the very people these left-wing groups claim big companies harm will ultimately live in a world of poverty should these industries go bankrupt.

The Mississippi River Basin case is one that will have dramatic consequences for agriculture.
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Disk Mower - 10 1/2 ft. 3 pt. $10,000

SHOP RATE $40 per hour
Mitch Moran explains the ramifications of the Chesapeake Bay initiative to agriculture.

George Leatherman, Agriculture Commissioner candidate Kent Leonhardt, and Mike Morris enjoying the tour.

Moran built this feeding shed to comply with new runoff regulations.

A discussion of direct farm marketing at the White Barn Farm Market.
Perfect weather was the order of the day for the annual Spring Farm Tour, sponsored by the WVFB Young Farmers and Ranchers. This year’s group ventured to Hardy County, visiting a number of locations including the WVU research farm at Wardensville, Buena Vista Farm and White Barn Farm Market.

A covered-dish picnic lunch capped off the day.
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¹ Offer valid toward the purchase of new 2011 and 2012 Buick Chevrolet and GMC models, excluding Chevrolet Volt.
² Requires Regular Cab model and gas engine. Maximum payload capacity includes weight of driver, passengers, optional equipment and cargo.
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⁴ To qualify, vehicles must be used in the day-to-day operation of the business and not solely for transportation purposes. Must provide proof of business. This program may not be compatible with other offers or incentive programs. Consult your local Chevrolet or GMC dealer or visit gmbusinesschoice.com for program compatibility and other restrictions. Take delivery by 9/30/2012.

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Because this is your idea of a pet.
Whether cooking on a gas or charcoal grill, at home, at a park or at a tailgate, grilling provides an unmistakable aroma, a sizzling sound and maximum flavor. And research shows that when it comes to grilling, nearly three out of four Americans choose beef as the meat they grill the most often; but nearly 30 percent are still looking for more information on how to harness the power of the grill.

For guaranteed, delicious results when grilling beef, try following these three easy steps:

1. Choose Your Cut
   Some of the best cuts for grilling include naturally tender ribeye, top loin (aka strip) and ground beef. Flank steak is also an excellent choice after a dip in a tenderizing marinade.
   **TIP:** Rubs and marinades are easy ways to add flavor and tenderize.

2. Prepare Your Beef
   Prepare grill (gas or charcoal) according to manufacturer’s directions for medium heat. Remove beef from refrigerator and season with herbs and spices, as desired.
   **TIP:** Wait to salt until after cooking so you don’t draw out the natural, flavorful juices from the meat.

3. Grill
   Place beef on grates and grill, covered, turning occasionally. Test doneness with meat thermometer: Cook burgers to 160°F and steaks to 145°F for medium rare or 160°F for medium.
   **TIP:** Turn steaks with long handled tongs instead of a fork. Do not press down on steaks or burgers as flavorful juices will be lost.
   **TIP:** For detailed grilling time by cut, visit www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com and type in “grilling.”
**Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs**

Total Recipe Time: 30 minutes
Makes 4 servings

Lemon Pepper Rub:
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 2 1/2 teaspoons lemon pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)

Combine rub ingredients.

Combine mushrooms, onion, oil and 2 teaspoons rub in medium bowl; toss. Alternately thread mushrooms and onion onto six 12-inch metal skewers. Finish with a lemon wedge.

Press remaining rub onto beef steaks. Place steaks and kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill steaks, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally. Grill kabobs 6 to 8 minutes or until mushrooms are tender, turning occasionally.

Remove vegetables from skewers; toss with cheese, if desired. Carve steaks. Season beef and vegetables with salt.

**More ways to master your “grilliance”**

- Temperature is critical when grilling. Don’t grill over high heat — this may cause charring on the outside before the inside has reached desired doneness, which is why it’s best to grill over medium heat. If using a charcoal grill, make sure the coals are white, ash-covered.
- Trim visible fat before grilling to prevent flare-ups.
- Less tender cuts, like flank steak, benefit from a tenderizing marinade. Think acidic ingredients like lime juice or vinaigrette.
- Keep raw meat separate from other foods. Use clean plates and utensils for cooked food.

For more delicious recipes, grilling tips and simple rub or marinade ideas, visit www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com.
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