General Motors Announces Added Discount for Farm Bureau Members Only

Effective immediately, and continuing through April 1, 2014, Chevrolet and GMC are offering exclusively to Farm Bureau members an additional $1,000 incentive on the purchase of any new 2013 or 2014 regular cab heavy duty (2500/3500) series truck. This is in addition to the standard $500 Farm Bureau incentive - for a total of $1500! This private offer is also stackable with all retail promotions - so you could save even more!

You must be a Farm Bureau member for at least 60 days to take advantage of this offer, and the address on your drivers license must match your home mailing address. Every member of your household can take advantage of this offer!

And remember to remind dealers of your Farm Bureau membership so that you can take advantage of all the incentives you are eligible for!

Can’t access the website? Don’t have internet? No problem! Call 800-398-4630 x. 300 and we can help you get all the information and certificates you’ll need to be on your way to a new vehicle at a great price!

It pays to be a member of Farm Bureau!

WVU Extension Sponsors Oil & Gas Drilling Educational Programs

West Virginia is home of one of the largest Marcellus Shale natural gas deposits on the East Coast. As landowners and community members began asking questions of WVU Extension agents about this topic, they organized a series of workshops to help the public learn about aspects of the oil and gas industry and how it could affect them.

“Gas Well Drilling and Your Private Water Supply” will be presented on November 18, 6:00 p.m., at the Winfield Community Building, Fairmont, WV; and November 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Doddridge County Park Building, West Union, WV. Brian Swystock, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service will be the speaker. For more information, call Georgette Plaugher, at 304-329-1391.

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.
We Deserve Better Leadership

Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau

It is hoped by the time you are reading this, that the partial government shutdown will be over. It’s difficult not to have access to USDA and other agency resources that we are accustomed to. The worst part of this situation is that all of it could have been avoided if Congress and the President could accomplish their most basic duty – approving a responsible budget.

The Federal Government has been operating without an actual budget since 2008, when Obama was elected. The House has done their job during the past three years – approving budgets and sending them to the Senate. However, under Harry Reid’s leadership, the Senate has refused to pass a budget. So in its absence, the government operates under a “continuing resolution”, which temporarily provides funding for a designated time. The House has passed several CRs, which would have funded all aspects of government except the implementation of Obamacare. I applaud their efforts to stall Obamacare, which I believe will be disastrous to our economy, and will quickly force our country into a single-payer healthcare system.

The Obama administration says that basic functions will continue through the government shutdown, such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid payments; active military; border patrol; Coast Guard and all other “essential” employees/agencies. I find it interesting that out of EPA’s 16,205 employees, only 1069 were deemed essential – meaning 94% of EPA employees are non-essential! That validates what I have saying for a long time. This would be a prime place to cut federal spending.

Suspect in all of this is the closing of parks and open-air memorials, and the suspension of the Amber Alert program, especially after comments by an Obama administration spokesperson that they “wanted to inflict a maximum amount of hardship on the citizens” with the closures they chose.

Our country deserves better leadership than this.

Here’s to a Happy, Plentiful Harvest

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Autumn is upon us once again. This is my favorite time of year, when the air turns crisp and the hills are in full color. It’s a time to take the grandkids to the pumpkin patch and sip hot cider on a chilly evening. Most importantly, it’s harvest time.

Harvest captures what I, and probably most farmers, feel this time of year: a sigh of relief; a twinge of excitement; a feeling of blessedness when a good crop is brought in.

Hayrides & Apple Bobbing

Harvest time is steeped in a tradition that has encompassed farm families and rural communities across the world for generations. In fact, until the 16th century, the term “harvest” was used to refer to the season we now know as autumn. Today, most folks outside of agriculture simply think of it as a very special, nostalgic time of year, celebrated with corn mazes, hayrides and apple bobbing.

For farmers, harvest secures our reward for an entire year’s worth of hard work, commitment and patience. It represents an end-goal of growing food that nourishes our families, neighbors and communities across the globe.

While there are exceptions, many areas of our nation were blessed this year with a record crop. The Agriculture Department is projecting record corn yields in 11 states,
Something to Think About

Don Michael, WVFB Director of Governmental Affairs

“Generally speaking, people are down on what they are not up on.” This was a revealing statement shared by a vocational administrator during the mid-70s, and I have found it to be quite appropriate over the years. One of the most recent examples involves Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley, West Virginia. During early to mid-September, rumors and news articles started surfacing about possible closure of the Center. The rumors were generated by discussions regarding budget reductions, and fueled by what many felt was an incomplete and/or inaccurate picture regarding those being served annually by the Conference Center.

I can only speak from my own limited experience, but I personally (as student and adult) have participated in over 70 multi-day youth educational events at the Lakes . . . seventy-four to be exact, involving some 23,170 individuals. Enthusiasm was contagious at those functions as students were engaged in a variety of career development events that were (and continue to be) an integral part of the Agricultural Education instructional program. I was afforded the opportunity to witness student development and demonstrated excellence at its best. In addition to those 74 youth events, I had the honor and privilege to attend nearly 100 adult teacher activities at the Lakes – curriculum and assessment, policy development, state teachers’ conferences, etc. Again, I am speaking only from my firsthand account with one service sector/educational entity within our state focused on statewide youth development in agriculture. But the Cedar Lakes story is so much more, and goes far beyond youth development in agriculture – other career and technical education student organizations, 4-H, Scouting, band and choral groups, adult educational activities (environmental training, teacher workshops, private business and labor training, local/state government training, higher education), arts and crafts programming, spin-off economic activity in the region every time an event comes to the Lakes . . . and the list goes on.

Reflecting back to the discussions regarding possible closure of Cedar Lakes, perhaps the discussions should have centered on the topic, “What can we do to modernize, manage, promote and preserve one of the state’s best resources for inspiring and educating youth of all ages?” I would guess that many who have pondered Cedar Lakes’ closure over the years have not experienced its magic, as a youth or adult participant, or serious observer. In such cases, they were likely “down on what they were not up on!”

Cedar Lakes offers a peaceful and secure setting, creating a unique atmosphere for helping students to reach their maximum potential in becoming productive citizens in today’s society. The Center is the envy of many states, evidenced by testimonies from visiting state and national youth representatives, as well as corporate leaders.

Farm Bureau appreciates the efforts of our members statewide, as well as other concerned parties who contacted various leaders to express support for Cedar Lakes. At this writing a large crowd is expected October 3 for an on-site “Rally Around the Lakes.” Scheduled speakers include youth representatives, educational leaders, state lawmakers, and other state/federal government personalities. In looking to the future, there is cautious optimism that closure will be off the table and concerned stakeholders will be working together in finding solutions to preserve Cedar Lakes’ positive impact for generations to come – stay tuned!

Shifting to another “political” scene, various oil and gas issues (including lease integration/forced pooling) were visited by members of Judiciary Subcommittee B during the September Legislative interims. Plans are to continue the discussions during the October and November interims, as lawmakers work to gather information to make informed decisions regarding proposed legislation for the 2014 Regular Session. Subcommittee B is co-chaired by Senator Bob Williams (D-Taylor) and Delegate Barbara Fleischauer (D-Monongalia).

see Michael, page 20
The long term needs of the farm should be your primary concern. Keeping up with the day-to-day operation of your farm can sometimes make it difficult to step back and think about a bigger picture: your farm’s legacy.

Have you developed a transition plan for when you retire or when it’s time to pass the farm on? When family members enter into the equation, planning can become more complicated.

To date, small business succession planning trends don’t look good. One study estimates that 70 percent of family businesses will fail to make it to the next generation. With 98 percent of all farms owned by families, the imperative for planning is clear for farm operators who would like to transition their land and operation to the next generation.

The oldest son works on the farm. He has always been expected to help out with the workload and carries more of it than the other three children

A second son who also works on the farm never finished school and is a bit of a problem child

The third son went to college, majored in business administration with a minor in agricultural science. He is a lot like his dad which causes relationship problems

The last child is a daughter. She has a close relationship with her mom and is the apple of dad’s eye. She is married and works in town as an elementary school teacher

Dad has a preconceived notion the farm should be operated by the oldest son who spends the most time working with him
Dad also feels, like mom, that all four children should equally own the farm and the two active sons should make decisions on operating the farm. They believe this is “fair”

• Estate documents reflect equal ownership and no business documents have been drafted or installed

Taking the above scenario into consideration, it’s time to ask some hard questions, like:

Can the farm survive if you divide into it four equal parts?

If not, how will that affect the farm’s ability to support those who are caring for it? Who will be in charge? Who will make critical decisions on its care?

Another common choice farm operators make is consolidating ownership of the land and operations with the active children. But, that may mean that the non-active children receive less, maybe much less than an equal share of the farm operator’s estate.

One way to compensate children who will not receive a share of the farm is a buy-sell agreement funded by life insurance. The farm operator can buy a life insurance policy, the proceeds of which will allow the children who will operate the farm to purchase the remaining shares of the farm from the children who will not operate it.

While planning for the future success of your operation, you and your family may have to face tough decisions that can be contentious. The best approach is to confront the issues, not avoid them. In the end, the long-term needs of the farm should be the primary priority to increase the odds of success for the transition and the ability of your farm to provide for your family into the future.

(Donald G. Schreiber, technical director of advanced sales for Nationwide Financial, is a registered representative of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA. Neither Nationwide nor its representatives give legal or tax advice. Please consult with your attorney or tax advisor for answers to your specific tax questions. For more information, contact your local Nationwide agent, call 1-877-OnYourSide, or visit nationwide.com/wvf.)
Jefferson County Farm Bureau President Lyle Tabb and JCFB board members presented a $100 gift certificate to Marlene Popkins of Kearneysville at their regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, September 3rd. Popkins’ name was drawn following a contest held by JCFB at the Jefferson County Fair. The Farm Bureau wishes to thank all the folks who stopped by to enter the contest and to talk about the activities and benefits of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Above, left to right: Russ Quinn, Heather Ishman, Tim Smith, Lyle Tabb, Mike Blue, Marlene Popkins, Ward Zigler and Doug Stolipher. Absent from photo are board members Gordon Hockman and Laura Bowman.
WVU Davis College breaks ground on new building - University officials and state dignitaries were joined by faculty, staff, students and others to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. Above, several join in the official groundbreaking on September 12, although construction has actually already begun on the $88.1 million dollar facility, projected to be completed in mid-2016. The state-of-the-art building will feature 73,000 square feet of offices and classrooms and 55,000 square feet of laboratory and research space.

Below, a model built by WVU students shows what the exterior will look like. The old Ag Sciences building will be razed once the new one is completed and occupied, and plans are to renovate the exterior of the South Ag Sciences building to match the new construction.
Well-known political figures, artists, actors, entertainers and the like are deemed to be important according to Time magazine’s list of “100 Most Influential People.” One person not on the current list is the American farmer. Now sure, one could say that listing categories of people could open the door to many groups worthy of the list such as soldiers, police officers, firefighters, teachers and so on.

Why list the American farmer? One reason is that we as Americans enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Much of that standard is a direct result of farmers and their daily efforts to provide affordable food for our country.

American farmers have significant influence considering the average citizen spends only about 10 percent of his or her disposable income on food. This frees up income that can be used to increase quality of life for all hard-working Americans—income that is used for a better car, home or even college tuition.

Affordable food is one of the main reasons America is the economic superpower that it is. In the last 100 years, American farmers have made great strides toward efficiencies in food production. That same efficiency ensures that food remains affordable as our population continues to rapidly increase.

Farmers are also making improvements in conservation through the use of no-till, precision agriculture and other technologies that reduce soil erosion, inhibit nutrient runoff and increase yield.

Farming may not be as glamorous as the lifestyles of the famous people listed in Time magazine. And urban children typically aren’t interested in farming as an occupation when they grow up. That’s not surprising, as the American farmer’s workday often begins before the sun rises and ends well after it has set.

In addition, the responsibilities of caring for livestock and crops rarely afford farmers the time for a much-needed vacation. Yet when Americans walk into the grocery store and find the shelves completely stocked from floor to ceiling with affordable food, most don’t stop to consider the dedication and contributions of the American farmer.

Today’s consumers seem to think it will always be this way. Stores will remain stocked… food will remain affordable… people will remain well fed. These suppositions depend in large part on the actions of today’s politicians, regulators and, yes, even consumers.

Fortunately for this country, American farmers want to continue to do what they have always done whether or not they receive the credit they deserve from those in the mainstream. It’s in their blood. It’s a proud American heritage.

In the meantime, American farmers will continue to be among the best “influencers” in our society whether or not Time’s editors deem them worthy of notice.

Glen Cope, a Missouri farmer, formerly served as chair of the American Farm Bureau Federation’s national Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.
I love cattle-selling day. Excitement is always in the air when those huge tractor trailers pull up the drive and we run a load of calves on to be shipped out west. Where will they end up? Will they go somewhere fairly close like Illinois or Iowa or further west to Oklahoma or maybe Colorado? How many people across the United States (and the world!) will have the opportunity to eat a hamburger or steak that originated from my family’s farm here in the mountains? There are about two minutes to enjoy the feeling of satisfaction of another successful calf crop before everyone has to go back to work so there’s a crop for next year too. Feeding our world is a big job. Stressful, demanding, and exhausting; but also incredibly exciting.

Sometimes it’s easy to forget about those people who don’t have enough to eat and go hungry. Feeding America, the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief organization, reports that as many as one in every six Americans is struggling with food insecurity. Hunger affects everyone – children as well as hardworking adults and senior citizens; and is just as likely to occur in a rural setting as in a suburban one. As a matter of fact, Feeding America reports that over 3 million rural households have a hard time putting food on the table. One of those households could very easily be a neighboring family.

The West Virginia Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is again organizing a “Harvest for All” food drive to take place during the fall Annual Meeting in Flatwoods. The “Harvest for All” campaign is a special partnership between the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and Feeding America. The intent is to allow farmers an opportunity to share part of their bounty with those less fortunate. Over 37 million Americans receive food through the Feeding America Network each year.

Over the past year and a half, I have been fortunate to have had two opportunities to work on service projects with “Harvest for All.” Last November, I (along with my friends on the AFBF YF&R Committee) spent three hours at a food pantry’s distribution center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin repackaging and labeling thousands of pounds of frozen breakfast foods. In July of this year, we spent a morning gleaning yellow squash and zucchini on a farm in Michigan. We picked over 16,000 pounds of produce to be processed and distributed to those in need.

While the food we collect at the Annual Meeting will be nowhere near these levels, the appreciation and gratitude from Feeding America is the same. We encourage everyone attending the Annual Meeting to bring along a canned good or two (or a dozen). If you would like to donate food but are not attending the meeting, please contact the State Office and we will arrange for someone to pick up your items. Like Feeding America advocates, “Together we can solve hunger.”

SAWMILL EXCHANGE
North America’s largest source of used portable sawmills and commercial sawmill equipment. Over 800 ads. Call for a free list or to sell your equipment. 800-459-2148
http://www.sawmillexchange.com
While you may have already heard of charitable gifts that can provide income to those you designate, along with income and estate tax savings, you may be more concerned about family economic considerations as you do your estate planning. You may think that such an income-producing gift doesn’t apply in your case because you want your spouse and children to have it all.

However, there is a way to do both: get more income today and provide a significant inheritance tomorrow, along with making a gift to a favorite charitable or educational organization that brings you satisfaction.

To learn how well it could work for you, the first step is to contact your financial advisor or the organization you wish to benefit.

To narrow the choices based on your financial needs, you can request projections which illustrate the economic benefits in “black and white.”

It works like this: you establish a charitable trust that pays you (and your spouse, if appropriate) at least 5% of the trust’s value as income. You, the charity, or a bank can serve as the trustee. The trustee is needed to administer and invest the donated asset, to take care of record-keeping, and to pay the income to you and others you choose.

You receive an income tax charitable deduction to lower current taxable income and, if appreciated assets are donated, no immediate capital gain taxes are owed. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds and even real estate are smart choices; cash works well too.

To derive the maximum benefit from this method, you can use some of the income received from the charitable trust to pay the premiums on a new insurance policy. The policy will legally be owned by a separate life insurance trust set up for that purpose. At your death, the policy’s proceeds can be paid to your children or other heirs and no federal estate taxes will be owed because the trust is not part of your estate. (Otherwise, 40% tax rates would be applicable if the total taxable estate exceeds $5,250,000 in 2013.)

So you can, using a creative two-step method, receive income today, make a tax-saving gift to help your favorite charitable or educational organization, and provide a full inheritance for loved ones.

That’s good planning.

For details, contact the WVU Foundation
304-284-4000
wvuf@wvuf.org
An interview with Senator Daniel Hall

Senator Daniel Hall became interested in politics and government at an early age. He loved history and social studies. “Call me a nerd if you want to, but I was always interested in that.” He threw his hat into the ring during his junior and senior years of high school, running for class president and winning each time.

Hall’s college years were a period of trying to discover who he was and what he believed politically. He attended both Republican and Democratic campus meetings, but made no commitments at that time. “I guess at that point I was more interested in chasing girls,” he laughs. “I was twenty years old! But I still voted, and still followed politics.” He mentions a picture of himself with Governor Underwood, and another with Charlotte Pritt, taken at a gubernatorial debate he attended in the mid-90s.

Working out of state for a number of years, Hall was unable get involved in local politics for a while. But a job change brought him back to the state, and he decided to dip his toe in the pool again. Against advice, he ran for a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates and was unsuccessful. He explains, “I didn’t want to be down the road, regretting that I didn’t try to do something. I try to live my life that way.” At that time, he ran as a Republican, a fact he says is no secret. “I did not really understand local party politics… West Virginia politics, at the time… so I lost that election.”

Senator Hall in time was able to see that a significant number of Democrats in West Virginia were conservative, as he was, so he could switch parties with a clear conscience. Now living in Wyoming County, where Billy Wayne
Bailey was stepping down from his position as a House member to run for Senate, Hall found the opportunity to once again run for office. Almost to his surprise, he won. “I think it’s funny how I never thought I had a prayer in the world to win,” he says, “well, you just never know how things are gonna work out.” Hall firmly believes he had divine help. “There is no way in the world I’m that good,” says Hall, acknowledging that he is by no means perfect. But he feels the same way about his Senate run. “I know some people don’t believe that God speaks to you…but I knew I had to do it.”

His experience in the legislature has opened his eyes to a number of things. One, he now appreciates the slowness with which things move through the legislative process. A source of frustration initially, he now sees that as an advantage in helping to keep a lot of bad laws from being passed. “Now I value this process…because Democracy is fragile.” He points to 9/11 as an example. “We instituted some laws because of that, that we are paying a price for now.” He warns against a ‘mob mentality’ and the need to consider the long-term effects of legislation. And two, he believes the power to appropriate monies has been improperly taken from legislators over time and given to the executive branch. “It’s nothing against our current governor…I think he’s done a good job…but our constitution specifically says it’s the legislature’s job to appropriate funds, and that has been taken from us. That’s the number one thing I would change right now.”

Hall’s Ninth District is an area with a lot of challenges. But it’s a dynamic district - from Beckley, an area very much in a vigorous growth stage, to Wyoming and McDowell counties, which have seen tremendous population losses for the last 30-plus years. Industries range from coal and timber, which are presently in a downturn, to natural gas, which is booming. Some county governments in his district are fighting to maintain basic services with a dwindling tax base to fund them. Additionally, many of the residents in these areas are retired, and therefore don’t contribute as much to the economy as they would if they were still part of the workforce. And there is also the problem, as there is in much of West Virginia, of talent drain. Many children born in the area leave to find work, because jobs are simply not available. “There is no Wal-Mart, there is no four-lane road, there are no stoplights in Wyoming County,” says Hall. “If you’re not a schoolteacher…if you’re not the local physician or the local dentist…there’s just only so much opportunity in rural counties. People look for those opportunities in other places, and so they leave.”

Hall also cites the difficulty presented by the topography of the area. The lack of flat land means that any building of infrastructure, such as an industrial park, is extremely expensive, and then only if the land is available. A significant portion of southern West Virginia is owned by land companies, and that is a double-edged sword. It’s great that they are there and provide some employment opportunities, but at the same time, “they’re in the business to buy land, not to give it away.”

The Senator thinks the district’s worst days are behind it. Though he admits it’s a slow process, he’s adamant that good things are happening. But he’s quick to point out that things will not return to what they were. “Some people get mad at me when I say this, but Wyoming and McDowell County will never be what they were. We mine more coal now than we ever have…but we do it with fewer miners. Technology, you know? It’s improved greatly. And, most people like to live close to shopping, schools, and so many coal miners live close to Beckley, Bluefield, Princeton…and they drive to work.” Hall believes the completion of a number of four-lane highway projects through the district will provide opportunities for people to buy acreage in rural areas and still be able to commute to work in urban areas. The rural areas will become bedroom communities for the larger cities. He thinks that will bring working families back into the rural counties, building homes and paying property taxes, which will benefit the local economies. And it will bring manufacturing, too, because companies will be able to transport their goods to market.

The future looks good for the Ninth District – and if Senator Hall has anything to say about it, it will be sooner rather than later.
Ann Gore has a degree in music. So, when she was first approached about taking over a Nationwide agency by a retiring agent, she was stunned. “I couldn’t read my own policy,” she recalled. However, believing in Ann, the agent persisted, and within a month she was fully licensed.

That was 23 years ago. Today, you’ll find Ann in Hinton, West Virginia, a charming little town along the picturesque banks of the New River in Summers County.

Ann says the insurance business is thriving despite a declining economy. Hinton was, at one time, a “railroad town,” and has suffered the same fate as most such places - as coal and other markets have waned. Referrals are her biggest source of business, she says. “That’s because we take good care of people.”

The Gore Agency’s philosophy is not to be pushy. Instead, “we go the extra mile on service,” she says. “We do things for our policyholders that a lot of other people probably wouldn’t do.” For example, Hinton was left with no power for several days following last year’s derecho. But Gore’s associate agent, Benjamin “Benjy” Farley, drove to Beckley so he could write a policy for a customer who needed it quickly to close on a house. They go the extra mile for the community as well. In fact, because of Ann’s volunteer work serving on the board of the Hinton Area Foundation, the agency won the Corporate Community Award from Nationwide, garnering $5000 for the non-profit, which in turn was able to support the community with scholarships and other grants. The Gore Agency supports other organizations and events in the area too, such as sports teams and after-prom events to discourage teen drinking.

Ann credits a lot of her success to her staff. “I have great people, and that’s huge,” she says.

She also appreciates the opportunity to offer Farm Bureau memberships to her customers, knowing that the discount really helps a family’s bottom line. The agency has sold more than 300 memberships.

In her spare time, when
she’s not helping her customers or her community, Ann leads a women’s Bible study, and plays the organ at church. She likes to travel, too. She recently took a Charles Stanley cruise to Alaska. And she’s in Morgantown as often as possible, to visit a new granddaughter.

Gore wants to continue to grow her agency, and eventually pass it along to Benjy, whom she refers to as ‘the young brain’. “It will be in even better hands then than it is now.”

Nine years ago, Ann hired Benjy Farley. She seems almost beside herself with her good fortune, as she can’t say enough positive things about him.

Farley, a West Virginia Wesleyan College alum, had a few stops along the way before he met Ann, working in management and sales positions, some of those outside of West Virginia. But a desire to return to his roots and raise his children near family brought about a career change.

It’s a decision he clearly is glad he made. Benjy is obviously happy in his work, both professionally and personally. “We’re all on the same page. We think alike. Our ethics are the same, so you don’t have to worry about someone saying something different than what you would say to a customer.” He, like Ann, is a people-person, and loves the interaction.

Farley is the agency problem-solver, and enjoys the challenge of taking a negative situation and turning it into a positive for his customers. While he admits it’s not always possible to solve a dilemma, Farley is particularly good at the research necessary to answer his customers’ needs. “More often than not, we can point them in the right direction. I don’t like to take ‘no’ for an answer, unless there’s a good reason.” On this particular day, Farley is working with customers worlds apart - from North Carolina and Singapore - researching possible answers to meet their insurance needs. “Isn’t that cool?” said Ann.

Farley’s personal goals are for he and his family to continue to grow in their spiritual walk together. And of course, he, too, wants to see the Gore Agency continue to grow and help the community. Benjy has taken Ann’s place on the board of directors of the Hinton Area Foundation, and is excited about the opportunities to have an impact in the area. He also serves on the local library board, and is active in his church. Farley also is a member of Summers County Farm Bureau.

Aside from spending time with family, Benjy likes to hunt and fish. And like Ann, he too, loves to travel and see more of the country.

Shared interests, shared ethics, shared goals - all make for a harmonious atmosphere at the Gore Agency. It’s a place where customers who want to be treated right can’t go wrong.
Capito, Candidates Speak at Wirt Regional Cookout

Shelley Moore Capito addressed a large crowd at the Regional Farm Bureau Cookout on September 7th in Wirt county.

Capito addressed concerns about Syria and threats by the Obama administration, as well as budget concerns, and what she hopes to bring to the Senate if she is successful in her bid to succeed retiring Senator Jay Rockefeller.

A number of other candidates, both local and state-wide, spoke as well.

WVFB President Charles Wilfong took a few moments to touch on upcoming state and national legislation of concern to agriculture. Of particular note were on-going oil & gas drilling and leasing issues and private property rights with regard to trespassers.

Attendees were treated to a delicious meal, including barbeque with all the trimmings.
from Michigan to Georgia.

A Cornucopia of Blessings

While many farmers will bring in a good crop this harvest, there are others who didn’t have such a bountiful year because of drought and other weather conditions. For example, spring rains in Iowa prevented farmers from planting until later in the season. The state’s corn crop is now only projected to reach 162 bushels per acre, whereas it should be at least 180 bushels per acre.

Unfortunately, that’s the business of farming. Some years you’re up, and others you’re down. It’s my hope that those farmers suffering this year will be back in the saddle come next harvest.

Someone once said that farmers deserve our deep respect – for the land and its harvest are the legacy of generations of farmers who put food on our tables, preserve our landscape and inspire us with a powerful work ethic.

My wish for all farmers this year is a plentiful harvest, after which you can sit back and take pleasure in the toils of your labor with family and friends. Enjoy an outing with the kids to the pumpkin patch or corn maze, and then partake in that much-deserved hot cider. It has been a blessed year.
I keep a jar of Steuart’s Pain Formula by my bed and reach for it at night when my knee pain flares up. It knocks the pain right out,” says Mike Marsden of Mabel, Minn. Marsden’s been using Steuart’s Pain Formula for about 4 years and says he’s constantly recommending it to other people.

Steuart Laboratories originally developed Steuart’s Pain Formula for race horses. Over the years, it has gained a following for treating other animals and humans. Rickey D Snow of Hood, Calif., says, “I hurt my shoulder January 18, 2013, and had constant pain through the middle of March-doctors could do nothing. Within 10 minutes of applying Pain Formula, the pain was completely gone.” The cream contains extract of the herbs comfrey and arnica in a liposome base that penetrates the skin rapidly, says Gary Steuart, who founded the company in 1982. “People now use the product to relieve joint and muscle pain associated with arthritis and injuries,” Steuart says.

Rose Johnson of Hazleton, Iowa, uses Steuart’s Pain Formula to relieve the tissue pain caused by fibromyalgia, a disorder characterized by widespread pain and tenderness in joints, muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues. In addition to pain relief from Steuart’s Pain Formula, she appreciates that the product causes no side effects.

Betty Brooks, Buhl, Idaho, read about Steuart’s in a farm magazine reported. “I put the Pain Formula on my knees about 10 AM this morning, and it’s now 9 PM and I’m still pain free. I’ve had knee surgery-and tried just about every product on the market-this works-I’ve had a very good day! I could feel it working as soon as I put it on.”

Warren Ward of Pemberton, Minn., says his knees ached so terrible at night that he couldn’t get to sleep without taking painkillers. “An orthopedic surgeon told me both my knees were shot, I had bone rubbing on bone, and I needed knee-replacement surgery. Then someone told me about Steuart’s Pain Formula. I started using it and in three days I had no pain in my knees, I went right to sleep at night, and I haven’t taken a pain killer since. “I like Steuart’s product because there’s no odor, it doesn’t stain your clothes, and you don’t feel a thing when you apply it. It’s an excellent product and I know it works,” Ward says.

Steuart Laboratories, P.O. Box 306, 203 N. Main St. Mabel, Minn. 55954 (ph 507 493-5585; 877-210-9664; www.steuartlaboratories.com).

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West Virginia Farm Bureau News 21
Kids aren’t the only ones who have fun in the Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab! Above, newly-hired teacher Lieselotte Heil has everyone in stitches during a training session in the Lab. Below left, Helen Hardman readies the Lab for the upcoming school year; Below right, students in Jefferson County learn a lesson about agriculture. Adjoining page, top left: Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab teachers undergo several days of training at the WVFB office in Buckhannon; right, Ag Lab Assistant Coordinator Mark Riggleman accepts a donation from Becky and Leonard Ammons at the WVFB office.
The 2012-13 school year ended on a high note and another year has already begun!

Some of the greatest highlights of working with the Lab are the very generous donations that help keep the Lab traveling all over our state, bringing agriculture to the classroom. In the last several months, we were privileged to receive donations from former WVFB Board of Directors member William “Bill” Ingram; Leonard and Becky Ammons of Monongalia County Farm Bureau; Energy Corporation of America; Phyllis Hinterer of Dominion Resources; Marshall County Farm Bureau; Cabell County Farm Bureau (in memory of Fred Graham); Denzil and Rita Huff; Lewis County Farm Bureau; Upshur County Farm Bureau; Mineral County Farm Bureau; Greenbrier County Farm Bureau; Bill & Peggy Bollenbach; Shirley Miller; Ted and Jeanne Carter; Mrs. Lester Mechling, Jr.; Clyde Bailey; and an anonymous donor. Many years ago, my Daddy taught me a great lesson: “Whether great or small, every little drop soon fills a bucket.”

Our wonderful staff continues to make it possible to keep Ag on the Move. We are happy to have added a new teacher to our roster of dedicated educators. She is Lieselotte Heil, from the Greenbrier/Monroe county area. Along with Lieselotte, our list of teachers include: Marilyn Tompa (Kanawha); Dawn Robinson (Upshur); Roianne Hackett (Upshur) and Donetta Sisler (Preston). Our teachers go through a rigorous training/refresher course each summer in preparation for the upcoming year, and we have a lot of fun doing it! And our faithful friends, Beverly and Steve Putnam continue to make sure the Lab gets from one school to the next each week.
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Autumn brings colorful foliage and perfect weather for entertaining indoors and out. As you plan your fall gatherings, consider stopping by your local farmers market to pick up all the ingredients necessary for preparing a savory home cooked feast that’s sure to please any crowd. See how local inspiration and fresh ingredients led celebrity Chef Tim Love to create his most recent recipes.

Every fall, Chef Love takes inspiration from the end of summer harvest to create unique dishes, like his latest recipe for Balsamic Turkey Meatloaf with Balsamic Mayonnaise. Ripe fall vegetables are the inspiration for his Grilled Chicken Thighs with Sweet Potato-Balsamic Salad and his Grilled Brussels Sprouts with Balsamic Mayonnaise. All three recipes include Hellmann’s® Creamy Balsamic Mayonnaise Dressing, which combines the rich, great taste of Hellmann’s® that you love with a touch of sweet, aged balsamic vinegar.

Whether you’re hosting a casual evening with friends or having the whole family over for a relaxing Sunday afternoon, these simple recipes are perfect for any occasion. Pair the dishes with clean table decor and your favorite refreshing beverages for an easy evening of entertaining. Carry a traditional theme throughout the tablescape by using mismatched plates, cutlery and glasses. Tie napkins and cutlery together with twine, and then tuck in a little bouquet of fresh herbs from the garden to add a dash of color and homegrown goodness.

For a daytime gathering, take the dining table outside to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and final weeks of grilling season. Lay out a blanket for the kids to picnic, and add a few games to keep them entertained. Savor the season by enjoying delicious meals and lasting memories in the company of your loved ones. For more recipes, visit www.Hellmanns.com.
Grilled Chicken Thighs with Sweet Potato-Balsamic Salad
_A Chef Tim Love recipe_
Serves 4
Grilled chicken thighs:
4 chicken thighs, skin removed
  Peanut oil
  2 tablespoons Tim Love Poultry Rub (or your favorite poultry rub)
Sweet potato-balsamic salad:
2 cups large dice sweet potatoes
  3 strips cooked bacon, diced
  1/2 cup julienned onion
  1/2 cup minced red pepper
  1/2 cup Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Creamy Balsamic Mayonnaise Dressing
  Salt and pepper
Preheat grill to 400°F. Rub thighs with peanut oil and poultry rub. Place thighs on grill and close lid for 5 minutes. Open grill lid and flip chicken. Close lid and let cook for five more minutes until chicken is done (168°F).
Meanwhile, poach sweet potato in salted water for 5 minutes. Combine all ingredients and mix well. Season with salt and pepper.

Balsamic Turkey Meatloaf
_A Chef Tim Love recipe_
Serves 6
  1 1/2 pounds ground turkey
  1 cup bread crumbs
  2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
  1 white onion, diced
  1/2 cup Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Creamy Balsamic Mayonnaise Dressing
  Salt and pepper
Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix all ingredients, place in loaf pan and bake for 1 hour.

Grilled Brussels Sprouts with Balsamic Mayonnaise
_A Chef Tim Love recipe_
Serves 4
  20 Brussels sprouts
  1/4 cup vegetable oil
  Salt and pepper
  1 red chile, minced
  1/4 cup Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Creamy Balsamic Mayonnaise Dressing
Preheat grill to medium high. Fill large saucepan half full of water and bring to a boil. Add Brussels sprouts and simmer for 4 minutes. Make water bath of half ice and water. Place sprouts in bath to cool quickly.
Cut in half lengthwise. Oil sprout halves. Season with salt and pepper. Grill for 1 minute each side. Top with minced chile. Serve with mayonnaise.
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