Free Farm Tour Scheduled for October

Would you like to understand the basic workings of a farm? Or do you have a desire to see how others run their ag operation? Well, here’s your chance!

The Young Farmer & Rancher Committee is having a free Fall Farm Tour on Sunday, October 11. The group will meet at 10 am at the Beverly Elementary School in Randolph County.

A full day is planned, with tours scheduled at Teter Farms, the Dean Farm, Campbell’s Market Slaughterhouse, the Charm Farm and Big Timber Brewing.

One thing is certain, it will be a day of fun and fellowship! If you are interested or would like more information, call Haley Wing at 304-940-0963.

Resolutions Meeting October 13

The single most event that defines Farm Bureau as a grassroots organization takes place every year in October - and that is the Resolutions Meeting.

County Farm Bureau representatives will once again gather at the Days Hotel in Flatwoods to craft, modify, discuss and ratify Farm Bureau policy and proposals from all over West Virginia.

Registration begins at 8:30 am and the meeting will commence at 9 am. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have not been involved in the policy process, contact your county president and have a chat. After all, we pull the most when we pull together!

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.
# West Virginia Farm Bureau News

*The Voice of Agriculture in the Mountain State*

September 2015

Volume 23 Number 9

West Virginia Farm Bureau
62 Farm Bureau Road
Buckhannon, WV 26201

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**VICE PRESIDENT**
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**PRESIDENTIAL PARADIGMS**

4

**FARM CREDIT DONATES TO NEW MOBILE AG LAB**

7

**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS...WILL WE ANSWER?**

13

**IT’S TIME FOR ANNUAL MEETING!**

14

**WVU UPDATE**

17

**LAW FAMILY WINS FARMING HERITAGE AWARD**

23

**EASY IDEAS WITH GRILLED LEFTOVERS**

30

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**On the cover**

Blackberries on the Bush
Mayerberg/dreamstime.com

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On the cover

Blackberries on the Bush
Mayerberg/dreamstime.com
Successful Policy Development Takes All of Us

Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau

It is again that time of year when we as an organization take time to consider what our policy positions will be on the many issues that our members are facing. This is a very important part of our organization. We are one of only a handful of organizations where policies are developed from the local level.

To explain policy for our newer members, let me briefly describe WVFB’s development process: First, if a member has an issue or concern, they can bring it to their county Farm Bureau. The county FB gives careful consideration to the issue. If agreed upon by the county, it is then forwarded to our state FB Policy Development Committee, which meets in early October each year to consider all recommendations from the counties, as well as to review all current policy. Those that are approved at this meeting are then forwarded to the WVFB Annual Meeting for consideration by the voting delegates. Both new and current policies approved at that time become the official policy positions of WVFB. Any issues of national interest are forwarded on to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration, approval and inclusion in AFBF policy.

These policy positions are compiled and published each year so that anyone who is interested can easily find our positions on a variety of issues. Policy books are mailed to all legislators and other key decision makers, and all

see Wilfong, page 24

Getting Rural America Online

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

You can’t tell the story of American agriculture without looking at how farmers and ranchers have pioneered the use of cutting-edge tools on their land. Innovation and farming go hand in hand. And we’ve come a long way from the first gas-powered tractors a century ago to the state-of-the-art, self-steering models available today. Farmers and ranchers are quick to embrace the best tools to get their work done — and to get it done well. Thanks to advanced farm equipment, better seeds and smarter digital tools, we are growing more while reducing our environmental impact.

By 2050, we’ll have 9 billion mouths to feed. That’s no small task, and we can’t get the job done without important advances in technology. Farmers today can analyze weather data, manage nutrient application, map their crop yields and adjust planting for the next season with modern precision agriculture tools. Soon, we will be sending out drones to monitor fields with more speed and accuracy than generations before could have dreamed of. We’ll be able to zero in on fields and crops down to the individual plant. We will spot diseases and pests almost the moment they appear, and target our water, pesticide and fertilizer applications to use the right amount at just the right time. This kind of precision is good for our businesses and our land. All we need is for the Federal Aviation Administration to act, and the sooner, the better.

Farmers and ranchers are eager to unlock the full potential of these new technologies, but across rural America many are still without the broadband service

see Stallman, page 24
Something to Think About

Don Michael, WVFB Director of Governmental Affairs

Wheels of Progress
Turning - Last month WVFB President Wilfong and I joined stakeholders for two extensive meetings called by House Energy Chair “Woody” Ireland to discuss our respective needs and concerns regarding reasonable and responsible legislation regulating oil and gas exploration while protecting private property/surface owners’ rights and the environment. Participant groups included: Farm Bureau, Land and Mineral Owners, Oil and Gas (IOGAWV and WVONGA), Royalty Owners and Surface Owners. Legislative leaders and legal staff were also involved. Following discussions and review of possible bill components, stakeholder groups were provided with draft legislation – “Horizontal Well Unitization and Landowner Protection Act of 2016” – to share with their respective groups to gain input. The draft reflected stakeholder involvement from our meetings, as well as suggestions made by various individuals during and after the 2015 West Virginia Legislative Session.

On Tuesday, August 25, Chairman Ireland met with West Virginia Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors to review the 51-page draft. The Board offered a few suggestions for clarification and improvement. At this writing a stakeholders’ meeting is set for Monday, September 14, for additional review and discussion. Farm Bureau is hopeful the end result will be reasonable and responsible legislation to guide oil and gas exploration and strengthen our economy, while protecting private property rights. Farm Bureau appreciates the common sense leadership provided by Chairman Ireland to bring stakeholders to the table in an effort to try to find consensus on workable, meaningful legislation.

On a sad note, the West Virginia agriculture community lost another recognized leader last month – Carl Wayne Larew of Preston County. My wife and I were blessed to know Carl and his family through our association with Agricultural Education and FFA in West Virginia. His two daughters, Alecia and Lesley, served as President of the West Virginia FFA Association. I first met Carl when we were at WVU as undergraduates in Ag Education. Later we worked together as fellow Ag Ed professionals. Reflecting back on Carl’s days as a student, as well as teacher, two things come to mind – the phrase “Git-R-Done” and the song “My Way.” Carl was a “Git-R-Done” guy, as could be evidenced by his efforts with secondary and adult students (32-year teaching career where he established one of the nation’s most innovative animal processing programs, championed a school farm, and was one of our state’s pioneers with embryo transfer), as well as his farming accomplishments and personal recognition, including the Honorary State FFA Degree and WV Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year honor. In his quest to “Git-R-Done” Carl generally did it his way. He was a “cut to the chase” guy who frowned on the political games that often accompany the education process . . . and he wasn’t bashful about stating his opinion, which was always built on integrity and experience. Carl was driven by his students and the industry of agriculture he dearly loved. Per the song, “I planned each charted course, each careful step along the byway, and more, much more than this, I did it my way.” Carl and “his way” will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carl’s loved ones. Until next time, take care FRIENDS, God bless and KEEP SMILING.

Farm Bureau appreciates the common sense leadership provided by Chairman Ireland to bring stakeholders to the table in an effort to try to find consensus on workable, meaningful legislation.
Are **YOU** using your Farm Bureau benefits?

See [http://wvfarm.org/benefits.asp](http://wvfarm.org/benefits.asp) for full details on how you can save money!
Farm Credit Donates $10K to New Mobile Ag Lab

President of West Virginia Farm Bureau, to support the purchase of a new Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab.

First launched in 2009, the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab has traveled more than 18,000 miles across West Virginia, visiting 160 schools in 45 counties. More than 60,000 students have visited the Lab. Showing its age after such extensive travel, a fundraising campaign has been undertaken to finance the purchase of a new Lab. Farm Credit has been an avid supporter of the Mobile Ag Lab program, donating funds towards the purchase of the original Lab as well.

Above, top, Farm Credit of the Virginias Board of Directors pose with WVFB President Charles Wilfong in front of the Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab during a Farm Credit meeting at Stonewall Resort in Lewis County. Below left, Ag Lab Coordinator Mark Riggleman explains the mission and function of the Lab. Right, Chairman Leech presents the check to President Wilfong.

For information on booking the Lab or to donate to the program, see our website at http://www.wvfarm.org/AgMobile.asp.
Inconsistent Food Labeling Creates Havoc for Farmers, Families and Food Distributors

Tabitha Bennett

American farmers have welcomed the responsibility of feeding not only the country, but also other nations with their hard work and dedication. For decades farmers have toiled to get the most out of their crops while preserving their land for another year. Farmers have been using biotechnology, or GMOs (genetically modified organisms) for generations to employ more efficient farming practices and increase crop yields while reducing soil erosion and greenhouse gases.

The use of GMOs has reduced the amount of pesticides and herbicides farmers use. GMOs have also allowed farmers to feed mass amounts of people using less acreage. In fact, without biotechnology, feeding the population would be impossible. A 2012 study concluded that had biotechnology been unavailable to the 17.3 million farmers who were using it, global production levels would have required additional plantings of 12.1 million acres of soybeans and 17 million acres of corn. With the development of cities and the diverse terrain of different regions in the United States, that type of space is neither available nor affordable.

In recent years, some people have become afraid of GMO foods, and have sought organic or natural alternatives in place of the foods that have fed the world for decades. Today groups are working to pass legislation at the state level to create their own food labeling laws regarding whether a food or food product contains GMOs. State labeling laws are not only going to drive up costs for farmers and food producers, they are going to create issues for food deliverers as well. This dramatic change to the food labeling system that everyone has been accustomed to for decades is going to be costly in many ways.

A Cornell University study estimates if states begin to create their own labeling systems, grocery prices will rise up to $500 per family, per year. If each state requires all of its farmers, food producers, transporters, and distributors to comply with up to fifty labeling rules, the materials and extra effort to meet the patchwork of criteria will cause prices to rise for everyone from the farmer who plants the seed, to the citizen purchasing food for their family dinner.

GMO labeling, especially at the state level, could have several negative impacts on West Virginia and the country as a whole. State labeling regulations could cause inconsistencies and confusion for food producers and distributors - not to mention the confusion for consumers. When shoppers see a range of labels on their once familiar products that vary based on which state they came from, concerns about food safety will rise. Moreover, food safety cannot be ensured when fifty states are each monitoring food using their own distinct rules. Before these laws begin to impact the farming industry, the food production industry and the grocery industry, something needs to be done.

The U.S. House of Representatives has already passed the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, which puts food labeling laws in the hands of the FDA instead of having states create their own labeling laws. Although this was an important step, the work is not done. The Senate must also pass legislation which will prohibit states from crafting their own food labeling systems. We need our senators to vote in support of this bill so food labels can stay consistent, farmers can continue to do their jobs, and families’ pocketbooks won’t be hit with yet another expense. Action needs to be taken by all farmers, grocers, and families to urge our U.S. Senators to vote in support of this measure.

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Farm Bureau, Caterpillar Inc. Announce New Benefit Partnership

American Farm Bureau Federation and Caterpillar Inc. announce a new partnership that will provide members up to $2,000 in purchase incentives on Cat machines. In addition, Caterpillar plans to support Farm Bureau programs in 2016 and coordinate with Farm Bureau on other efforts.

“Our extensive product line, with more than 300 Cat machines, reflects our commitment to the ongoing success of American agriculture and rural businesses,” said Dustin Johansen, Caterpillar Agriculture Industry Manager. “We’re proud to partner with the American Farm Bureau Federation and help members get their jobs done with the highest quality, best value equipment, attachments and integrated solutions in the industry.”

Eligible equipment includes Cat skid steer loaders, compact and multi-terrain loaders, wheel loaders, telehandlers, backhoe loaders, hydraulic excavators and track-type tractors. A range of incentives are offered:

- Small Wheel Loaders: $2,000
- Compact Wheel Loaders: $1,000
- Small Dozers: $1,000
- Backhoe Loaders: $500 - $1,000
- Compact Track Loaders: $500 - $1,000
- Multi Terrain Loaders: $500 - $1,000
- Skid Steer Loaders: $500 - $1,000
- Telehandlers: $500 - $1,000
- Mini Hydraulic Excavators: $250 - $500

“Farm Bureau’s commitment to providing members with exclusive access to superior, high-quality brands, programs and products continues with this new partnership,” said AFBF President Bob Stallman. “Caterpillar and agriculture have a shared history that goes back more than a hundred years. Our new partnership will make it easier for our members to improve productivity and efficiency to maintain profit margins,” he added.

The Farm Bureau Member Benefit discount on Cat machines can be combined with any current retail discounts, promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of other membership purchase incentives (such as the NCBA discount).

All participating state Farm Bureau members are eligible. Discounts cannot be applied to past purchases. Members must provide a valid Member Verification Certificate to the Cat dealer at the time of quote to receive the discount. Certificates may be obtained at www.fbadvantage.com/cat.

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Herbal Formula Eases Farmers’ Aches And Pains

“I read about Steuart’s Pain Formula in a farm magazine,” says Rickey D. Snow, Hood, California. “I hurt my shoulder January 18th 2013, and had constant pain until the middle of March. My doctors could do nothing, within 10 minutes of applying pain formula, the pain was completely gone.”

Warren Ward of Pemberton, Minnesota says his knees ached so terrible at night that he couldn't get to sleep without taking pain killers. “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 3 days I had no pain in my knees. I went right to sleep at night and I haven’t taken a pain killer since.”

Jack Zimmerman from Elysian, Minnesota is a disabled Afghanistan war veteran. He stepped on an IED in 2011 & lost both of his legs. He is confined to a wheel chair because of his injuries. “After I spend a day in my wheel chair I end up with a lot of back, neck, & shoulder pain. Within a half hour of applying Steuart’s Pain Formula I am pain free. Prior to knowing about Steuart’s I could not tolerate a whole day in my wheel chair.”

The cream contains extracts 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 use the product to relieve joint and muscle pain associated with arthritis and injuries,” Steuart says.

No Odor
Won’t Stain Clothes
No Hot or Cold Sensation
2 oz. Pain Formula: $14.95
5 oz. Pain Formula: $29.90
Shipping and Mailing: $7/order

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Toll free: 1-877-210-9664
www.steuartlaboratories.com
District Court Judge Ralph Erickson has granted a preliminary injunction requested by North Dakota and a dozen other states that sued the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers in June over their Waters of the United States rule.

Judge Erickson “found strong evidence that the EPA was arbitrary and capricious in its rulemaking,” explained American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. “He saw no connection between key provisions of the rule and the science that was presented to support it. Based on evidence presented so far, he ordered that the rule be stopped while the litigation continues to a conclusion.”

Stallman continued, “We applaud the court’s decision. The so-called Clean Water Rule is yet another example of EPA’s reckless and unlawful behavior in the face of science, economics and the law. Whether you’re a farmer, a rancher, a homebuilder or landowner of any stripe, the evidence is clear: This rule simply has to be stopped.”

EPA said in a statement that the judge’s ruling applies only to the 13 states involved in the lawsuit. The agency considers the WOTUS rule to be the law of the land in the rest of the country, beginning August 28. The 13 states that brought the suit are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

“Even in the face of this court order, EPA is reportedly asserting it will enforce the new rule in the 37 states that are not part of the North Dakota lawsuit,” Stallman said. “Thus, for much of the nation, this unlawful rule will continue to create uncertainty and legal risk for commonplace land uses like farming and ranching. It’s clear that now is the time for Congress to act and pass S. 1140 to send EPA back to the drawing board. We won’t stop until this rule is finished.”

The case involving the state of West Virginia was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia on June 30th. A total of eleven states participated in that suit, including Attorneys General from West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. On August 27, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood declined to issue an injunction in the case, saying she did not have jurisdiction.

On August 6, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey addressed a large crowd at the Wood County Field Day at Kesterson’s Farm. Morrisey reviewed West Virginia’s case against the EPA, calling it a clear taking of private property rights. He also discussed the agency’s overreach regarding the Clean Air Act, and the impact both issues are having on the Mountain State.

American Farm Bureau Federation and West Virginia Farm Bureau are currently preparing information to guide farmers and landowners through this uncharted territory. Meanwhile, WVFB members are encouraged to contact Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin, both of whom have said they will support S. 1140. The U.S. House of Representatives has already passed legislation calling for the EPA to withdraw the rule. All of West Virginia’s representatives supported that bill.
Cabell County Farm Bureau purchases FFA jackets - Through a program initiated by the Santa Barbara, California Farm Bureau, Cabell County FB was able to provide FFA jackets to members who did not have resources to purchase their own. The students filled out applications and went through an interview process to qualify. CCFB hopes to provide more in the future. Above, left to right, C.J. Simpson, Jonathan Adkins, and Danielle Berry proudly wear their new FFA jackets.

If your county FB is interested in this program, contact the WVFB office for more info.

Farming is a business of uncertainty, but here’s something you can count on.

Chevrolet presents this exclusive $500 private offer1 toward the purchase or lease of an all-new Chevy Silverado — the 2014 North American Truck of the Year. From the family of the most dependable, longest-lasting2 full-size pickup in America, rest assured your Silverado will keep you working without skipping a beat.

1 Offer available through 4/1/17. Available on qualified 2015 and 2016 Chevrolet vehicles. This offer is not available with some other offers. Only customers who have been active members of an eligible Farm Bureau for a minimum of 30 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Customers can obtain certificates at www.fbverify.com/gm. Farm Bureau and the FB logo are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used herein under license by General Motors.

2 Dependability based on longevity: 1987–April 2013 full-size pickup registrations.
The development of Marcellus and Utica Shale may well be the financial savior for West Virginia. The petroleum industry has estimated that the Marcellus play contains 489 Trillion Cubic Feet of recoverable natural gas, and over 3.4 Billion barrels of oil (based on 2011 US Geological Survey estimates). Recently, it was estimated that Utica contains 785 Trillion Cubic Feet of recoverable natural base, and 1,960 Billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Simply stated, these two natural gas deposits, in combination, are the largest in the United States, and very possibly in the world.

New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia have enough natural gas to make our entire country energy independent for the next 100 years. One Utica well located in Northern West Virginia is currently producing more than 40,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day.

West Virginia currently collects a five-percent (5%) severance tax on oil and natural gas production. In 2013, the amount collected was over $87 Million and in 2014 it was in excess of $188 Million. This increase is due to increased production associated with the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays. Severance tax collections for the 2015 are not yet available.

There are those who would advocate to raise this tax from 5% to 6%. If you do the math, that is a twenty percent (20%) tax increase on oil and gas producers! I on the other hand would support ways to increase production—and thus achieve the same goal of increased tax revenues without placing the additional tax burden on an industry unable to sustain such an increase. Logistically, we have barely scratched the surface of the potential oil and gas production in West Virginia.

In addition, we must encourage the construction of pipelines, as well as building new processing facilities in the state as the next logical step to further develop and capitalize on our abundant natural resources. By increasing the number and size of these facilities, we create a tremendous need and opportunity for additional jobs for West Virginians.

Today, West Virginia, like so many other states, is struggling for additional income. Our highways and secondary roads are in shambles. Our schools rank 48th in the nation. Our high school graduation rate is 8th from the bottom. Our per capita income currently ranks 48th in the nation, and West Virginia is the only state in the nation to have a negative population flow.

Now is the time to start improving the conditions that exist in our state. Every day we wait, is a day West Virginia falls further behind.

We must take full advantage of the tremendous resources we have, and use them to promote and grow our West Virginia economy. If we as a state are going to turn the tide and bring West Virginia to the forefront, our Legislature and citizens must change many of the things we have done in the past. We must encourage companies like Odebrecht and Braskim to invest and develop theirs businesses in West Virginia.

We can start with the oil and gas industry, and build from there. By providing tax incentives, streamlining the permitting process, and approving lease integration, we can change our direction, and will see an increase in capital investments in West Virginia.

In advance of these changes, our citizens and workforce must continue to strive to develop new skill sets for the jobs that will follow. A well trained, qualified, and drug free workforce will be essential for these new jobs. Anything short of that is unacceptable.

John R. Kelly serves in the West Virginia House of Delegates (R-Wood), District 10.
It’s Time for Annual Meeting!

Make plans now to attend the West Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Meeting! This year’s event features a number of fascinating seminars and dynamic speakers, full of great information for you, your family and your farm! And don’t miss the opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones! Don’t miss out - make your reservations today using the attached brochure or go online using the QR code or to www.wvfarm.org. (Note: no other brochures will be mailed to members)

Presenters for this year include:

Jim & Valerie Gabehart play heart-felt songs in a bluegrass style from the hills of West Virginia. They met through their shared love for bluegrass music and married in 1981. They formed their band in 1982 and they’ve been making music together ever since. Jim & Valerie are joined by Joe Vance, Jr., from Hurricane, West Virginia, and Brandon Shuping, from Mingo County, West Virginia.

Jim & Valerie have performed as an opening act at concerts with The Judds, Ricky Skaggs, Charlie Daniels, Roy Clark, Eddie Rabbit, Exile, and Confederate Railroad.

Their most recent CD, recorded in 2013 at Eagle Canyon Studios in Nashville, is “I Was Raised In A Railroad Town”, a collection which also included several of Jim’s original compositions.

Ryan Yates is the Director of Congressional Relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation. In this capacity, he advocates on behalf of American farmers and ranchers on policy issues including federal lands management, the Endangered Species Act, and protection of private property rights.

Previously, Yates has served as Associate Legislative Director for the National Association of Counties (NACo), where he handled policies affecting public lands and NACo’s Western Interstate Region. Before joining NACo, Yates was Western Issues Specialist with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Yates has a degree in agricultural business from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
Brent R. Porteus is a managing partner of the family-owned farming and agricultural business, Blair Porteus and Sons in Coshocton County, Ohio.

Porteus was elected to the Nationwide board in 2011, and also serves as board chairman of Farmland Mutual Insurance Company and Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company. In 2013, he was appointed by Governor John Kasich to serve a 9-year term on The Ohio State University Board of Trustees. Porteus has held leadership positions with the Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Corn Marketing Program and the National Corn Growers Association.

Porteus served as president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation from 2008-2011 and held many leadership roles within the organization. He also represented the farm bureau on international trade missions.

Catherine Wilkes Delligatti is an attorney with Bowles Rice, specializing in tax and corporate planning and advising, tax controversy work and municipal work.

A graduate of the WVU College of Law, Delligatti also serves as counsel to the City of Martinsburg Historic Preservation Review Commission, the City of Martinsburg Board of Zoning Appeals, assists the Martinsburg City Prosecutor and is the Town Prosecutor for the Corporation of Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Delligatti will be presenting information on taxation of landowner’s mineral rights for active and reserve accounts and the income tax ramifications on the leasing of oil and gas rights.

...plus sessions on Canning and Preserving Food, Land as Your Legacy, a special showing of Farmland the movie, an update from members of the West Virginia Legislature and more!

November 13-15, 2015 at the Days Inn and Suites Conference Center

See attached brochure for full details, use the QR code, or go to www.wvfarm.org
FARM BUREAU® YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS PROGRAM

YF&R SHAPES THE FUTURE

The YF&R program helps young members shape the future of agriculture, as well as their individual futures, with leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Through three competitions, members are able to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful farm plans as they compete against the best of the best Farm Bureau has to offer.

As part of the YF&R competitions, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado or GMC Sierra truck, courtesy of Chevrolet. Three national finalists in each competition will receive a Case IH Farmall tractor, courtesy of Case IH, as well as a $2,500 cash prize and $500 in STIHL merchandise.

For more information about YF&R competitive events contact your state Farm Bureau or contact AFBF at yfr@fb.org or 202-406-3600.
Managing Colorado potato beetle

The Colorado potato beetle, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, is a serious insect pest of several vegetable crops in the family Solanaceae. Plants commonly attacked by this insect include potato, eggplant, tomato and pepper. Both the larval and adult stages feed on the leaves of plants, and if left unmanaged can quickly cause extensive defoliation. Under heavy infestations feeding damage to above ground fruit may also occur.

Description
Adult Colorado potato beetles are approximately 3/8 inch long and oval in shape. They have yellowish-white wing covers (elytra) marked with ten longitudinal black stripes (five on each wing cover). Larvae are red to pinkish in color with two rows of black spots on each side of the body.

Lifecycle
In West Virginia, this insect typically has two generations per year. Adults spend the winter in the soil or under crop residues and other organic debris. Adults become active in the spring (around May) and begin laying clusters of yellowish orange eggs on the undersides of leaves. After egg hatch, larvae feed for approximately two to four weeks before dropping to the ground to pupate in the soil. New adults typically emerge from the soil one week later to continue the next generation.

Chemical Control
Neonicotinoid insecticides (e.g., imidacloprid) applied at planting has been the traditional method used by many West Virginians to control Colorado potato beetle. However, the effectiveness of these insecticides has been waning in some parts of the U.S. due to resistance.

This insect has a long history of developing resistance to a number of the insecticide classes. For instance, carbamate (e.g., carbaryl) and pyrethroid (e.g., permethrin) insecticides are now largely ineffective for controlling beetles. Rotating insecticides with different modes of action is essential for preventing, or at least delaying, the development of insecticide resistance. The spinosyn (e.g., spinosad, spinetoram) and diamide (e.g., chlorantraniliprole, cyantraniliprole) class of insecticides, as well as the active ingredients novaluron and abamectin, can be effective insecticide options for rotation.

Non-chemical Control
Non-chemical methods for management are also important. Selecting early-maturing cultivars and planting later in the season (June) may allow the harvest of crops before significant damage occurs.

If practiced on a regular basis, hand removal can be an effective method for controlling Colorado potato beetle in small plantings.

The larvae and adults can be removed and placed in a container filled with water and a few drops of dish soap. The dish soap breaks the water’s surface tension so the insects sink into the water and drown rather than escape.

Another non-chemical method involves the use of a spring trap crop planted a few weeks before the main crop to divert overwintering beetle populations. These trap crops —continued on page iii—
Increase cow/calf net returns through value-added management

Although markets are trending slightly lower than last year, 2015 is shaping up to be another impressive year for cow/calf net returns. Still, cow/calf producers should ask themselves if they are truly taking full advantage of current market conditions and maximizing calf value.

Maximizing Value

Maximizing calf value starts with generating a superior product – quality, healthy calves that are prepared to transition to the next stage of production. Investing in profitable genetics, implementing a herd health program and properly preconditioning calves are key to maximizing calf value; however, having a quality product isn’t enough. You must also have a marketing plan. In its simplest form that means making your calves desirable to as many buyers as possible; however, for many West Virginia producers it’s hard to be competitive in a commodity market when herd size doesn’t allow you to market in commodity-sized groups (i.e., 50,000 lb truck loads).

West Virginia Quality Assurance Feeder Cattle Marketing Program

The West Virginia Quality Assurance Feeder Cattle Marketing Program capitalizes on superior management and provides producers the opportunity to collectively market commodity-sized groups of preconditioned feeder cattle. The WVQA Feeder Cattle Marketing Program, or Calf Pool Program, requires producers to use quality bulls and implement a comprehensive herd health program, which includes vaccinating calves at least twice prior to weaning and shipment.

Producer groups may then choose whether to wean their calves for 45 days prior to shipment (Gold Program) or ship them as vaccinated but unweaned (Silver Program).

In either case, participating producers have added significant value to their calves when compared to traditional marketing methods (i.e., graded feeder cattle sales).

During the past 14 years, the WVQA Feeder Cattle Marketing Program has generated an average of $64/head in additional value when compared to similar weight class black and black white face M1 and L1 graded calves. In the past three years alone, that value exceeds $84/head. Altogether, participating producers have received $5,454,377 in added value over the previous 14 years.

Proven Value

Even though these data indicate significant opportunities for many West Virginia producers to generate additional revenue (even in the best market ever), less than 120 producers participated in the program in 2014. Why? There are two common arguments: it’s too much work, or I can make just as much selling my calves right off the cow at the local market.

— continued on page iv —
Pruning and maintenance of brambles

Raspberries and blackberries are very popular fruits. However, having a good crop of large, juicy berries requires work. Red raspberries, black raspberries and blackberries (collectively called brambles) can quickly become overgrown if not managed properly.

Canes
There are two types of canes (stems) on a typical bramble plant: first year primocanes, which do not fruit the same year they emerge on some varieties, and floricanes, which are canes that flower, bear fruit and then die.

Certain red raspberries, black raspberries and blackberries are primocane-fruiting, meaning they will bear fruit on primocanes that emerged that year.

Each year, new primocanes emerge from the bramble plant. Red raspberries and blackberries produce new canes from the crown (compressed stem at the ground level) and roots, while black raspberries produce new canes predominantly from the crown.

Maintenance
There is no advantage to having too many canes, because they will shade and crowd each other resulting in small fruit and disease problems.

It is important not to let the row or plant canopy of blackberries and raspberries exceed 36 inches in width. Any canes that emerge past this width should be removed either by pruning or tillage.

Another strategy for controlling cane growth is to use a landscape fabric between the rows as a mulch to suppress canes from emerging.

Tipping
Tip pruning or “tipping” brambles refers to the practice of removing 4 to 5 inches from the tip of each primocane. Summer tipping of primocanes is practiced only on black raspberries, purple raspberries and blackberries — not on red raspberries. Pinching the tips makes the plant produce side shoots or laterals, which will increase the number of blooms per cane and produce an earlier crop.

In addition, the canes do not get exceedingly tall and unmanageable.

Tipping is done on black raspberries before the cane begins to arch to the ground (typically at 30 to 36 inches); however, blackberries are tipped at 4 to 5 feet in cane length.

Many black raspberry and blackberry varieties produce new plants where the cane contacts the soil. To prevent new plant formation and overcrowding in the canopy, the canes are tipped or pinched.

Also, a trellis can be used to keep the canes upright. Floricanes die after bearing fruit and should be removed from the plant canopy before winter.

Primocane-fruiting types
For gardeners who want a fall harvest of berries, the primocane-fruiting types are a suitable choice. Recommended varieties include ‘Caroline,’ ‘Himbo Top,’ ‘Heritage’ and ‘Autumn Britton’ (red raspberries); ‘Niwo’ (black raspberries); and ‘Prime Ark Freedom®’.

Primocane blackberries must be tipped to encourage side shoot or lateral branching; however, primocane raspberries are not tipped.

Primocane-bearers are pruned once per year. This is accomplished by mowing the canes off in late winter as close to ground level as possible. The following year, the new canes will emerge and bear fruit later that season.

By Lewis Jett — WVU Extension Specialist, Commercial Horticulture

Managing Colorado potato beetle – continued from page i –

...can then be destroyed (along with any beetles) before the primary crop becomes susceptible to attack.

Crop rotation is an effective option for larger growing areas. Growing susceptible crops every other year, or planting them ¼ to ½ mile away from the previous season’s crop may reduce beetle populations.

By Daniel Frank, WVU Extension Specialist—Entomology
A $6.7 million gift to West Virginia University from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust will transform the equine educational facilities at the 995-acre Reedsville Experiment Farm in Preston County into a new, modern teaching, research and extension center.

The center will increase student and community opportunities for learning, provide applied research opportunities for faculty and provide an example of how a sustainable farm is managed, officials say.

In recognition of the gift, WVU will name the center the Hazel Ruby McQuain Equine Education and Resource Center and will name the farm the J.W. Ruby Research Farm.

Before being purchased by WVU, the farm was owned by the Ruby family and operated as Sterling Farms. WVU’s Board of Governors approved naming of the facilities at its June meeting.

“The Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust’s continued commitment to investing in the University and the state supports our vision of providing well-designed facilities and spaces that enhance learning and research opportunities for our students and faculty,” said WVU President Gordon Gee. “And I love that this beautiful farm and equine facility will be a lasting legacy to a couple who loved the horse industry and the important economic and educational roles it plays in our state.”

In keeping with WVU’s and the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust’s vision for equine education and outreach, revitalization projects will be designed to:

- Enhance and support activities by providing improved arenas, classrooms, housing and meeting spaces;
- Create a model and sustainable farm environment program;
- Improve security and visibility; and
- Create opportunities for economic growth in the community.

Today the overall farm is home to horses, cattle and forage crops managed by WVU in partnership with the WVU Extension Service. The front of the farm, along Kingwood Pike, is where the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust’s investments will be made in support of the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences equine studies program and the WVU Extension Service Equine Arena. Phase 1 of the project will be substantially completed by December 2019.

By Marissa Sura, University Relations Senior Research Writer

Increase cow/calf net returns – continued from page ii –

If you are one of the producers making this argument, I invite you to do the math. In 2014, nearly 50 percent of participating producers marketed 25 or fewer calves, yet the average producer returned an additional $3,662 to their operation.

If you are interested in learning more about the WVQA Feeder Cattle Marketing Program, contact your local WVU Extension office or visit anr.ext.wvu.edu/livestock/feeder_cattle_marketing.

By Kevin Shaffer, WVU Extension Livestock Specialist

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Law Family Wins Farming Heritage Award

Growing up on a farm is exhausting, with long hours, messy work and constant worry about the weather, livestock and having enough time to complete all of the tasks needing attention every day. On the other hand, growing up on a farm is very rewarding. Watching calves born in the spring and fall come into the world and thrive as they grow, knowing they will help keep the farm going for one more year, is satisfying to a farmer.

One Ritchie County family was honored for the traditions and legacy they carry on with their family cattle business.

David and Marlene Law were married Feb. 28, 1953, and started off their married life in Harrisville, and were raising cattle and farming just a few miles outside of town. David and his brother-in-law, Phillip Brake, had purchased a farm owned by the Price family. In the early years of the cattle operation, they owned a mixture of cattle breeds and cross-breeds.

David eventually bought out Brake’s portion of the farm. He started purchasing Polled Hereford cattle in 1954 and the David Law and Sons Polled Hereford farm became a reality.

Marlene said David decided to build a home on the farm, and after the house was completed the family, including sons Butch and Gerry and David’s brother Carl, who was injured serving in the Armed Forces during World War II and lived with the family, moved to the newly constructed house Christmas week 1958.

Butch was five and Gerry was two when they moved to the farm. “This has always been home to me,” Gerry stated. Butch, on the other hand, remembers moving to the farm after living in town with cousins close by and neighbor boys to run around with during the summers. Both boys worked on the farm, helping their dad at young ages and the family cattle business kept growing as they purchased more Polled Hereford cattle. At five, David had Butch driving the tractor and he was baling hay using the
members receive policy in the form of the January issue of our magazine.

The purpose of this whole procedure allows us to work together to implement our policy through our legislative channels – a process that is virtually impossible to do as an individual. The key to success in all of this is unity. Our credibility as an organization depends upon it. Your West Virginia Farm Bureau Board of Directors are committed to and expected to support these policy positions. With so many critical matters before us, our only hope for success lies in our ability to work together.

It all goes back to the WVFB motto: “We pull the most when we pull together.”

Please, take time to be involved with this very important part of our organization.

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Wilfong, continued

needed to make many of them practical. The Agriculture Department estimates just 67 percent of farmhouses had access to the Internet in 2013, which left one-third of America’s farm and ranch businesses offline. The Internet shouldn’t be a luxury. Farmers and ranchers rely on broadband access to connect with customers, access new markets and comply with new regulations. Rural broadband access is also critical to the communities surrounding our farmland: Online healthcare, education and government services can deliver opportunities and services rural Americans wouldn’t otherwise have at their doorstep. However, with no affordable broadband, rural communities are isolated from these services and growth opportunities.

Our communities and our economy are stronger when we have the tools we need to work together and prosper. We’re excited to see the Federal Communications Commission transition to the Connect America Program, which focuses attention on the need for broadband services in rural areas. We need all communications providers to be covered — not just telephone providers — to open the door to all Americans in rural communities. And there’s much more that can be done. Farm Bureau supports tax incentives, grants and regulations for communications carriers so they can open up new markets that would otherwise prove unprofitable.

Washington hears the outcry for high-speed Internet, but the solution is coming through slower than dial-up. Our rural communities shouldn’t have to wait any longer for the connections that broadband will give them. - See more at: http://fbnews.fb.org/ FBNews/Viewpoint/Ag_Agenda__Getting_rural_America_online.aspx#sthash. og2MtBEp.dpuf

Stallman, continued
2015 Grain Rescue Tube Winners

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

Twelve fire departments will soon be better equipped to respond to grain entrapment and engulfment emergencies thanks to the generous support of CHS, GSI, South Dakota Wheat Growers and other Grain Bin Safety Week Partners.

Each year, Nationwide holds a Nominate Your Fire Department Contest that awards first responders with grain rescue tubes and extrication training. The contest, held annually in conjunction with Grain Bin Safety Week, seeks nominations of first responders describing how their department or community will benefit from winning a tube and training, and how they plan to share both with nearby departments.

In 2014, the contest awarded a rescue tube and training to the Westphalia (KS) Fire Department. This year’s recipients were chosen from a record-high 300 entries. Each fire department listed below receives an aluminum grain rescue tube and hands-on training valued at $8,000. The winners are:

Conrad Fire Department, Conrad, IA; Mt Hope-Funks Grove Fire Department, McLean, IL; Glenville Fire Department, Glenville, MN; Jonesburg-High Hill Fire Department, Jonesburg, MO; Cooperstown Fire Department, Cooperstown, ND; York Fire Department, York, NE; Canton Fire Department, Canton, NY; Central Fire District, Smithville, OH; Bethal Township Fire Department, Medway, OH; Berlin Fire Department, Berlin, PA; Badger Fire Department, Badger, SD; Town of Turtle Fire Department, Beloit, WI.

Beginning Aug 24, 2015, representatives from Nationwide and partnering organizations are traveling to each location to participate in the awarding of the tubes and training.

Training of the Badger Fire Department is provided by South Dakota Wheat Growers. Dan Neenan, director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), will travel to the other locations with a state-of-the-art grain entrapment simulator. It’s the perfect training ground for attending EMS and fire personnel to experience firsthand the dangers of flowing grain and to learn specialized rescue techniques – all in a safe and controlled environment.

“Preventing tragic grain bin accidents is one of our top priorities,” said Brad Liggett, President, Nationwide Agribusiness. “But when they occur, fire departments need to be properly equipped and trained to protect both themselves and the communities they serve – and we want help.”

Nationwide is leveraging its new partnership with GiveForward, an online fundraising and donation website, to help the non-winning fire departments set up a Grain Rescue Tube Online Fundraiser.

Online fundraising through GiveForward makes it easy and FREE for fire departments to securely connect with friends, family and entire communities to raise money to acquire grain rescue tubes, related equipment and training.

Please visit Grain Rescue Tube Online Fundraiser to find a fundraiser in your area. Check back often as new fundraisers should be starting soon.

The chances of surviving a grain bin engulfment are greatly increased if a grain rescue tube is available to properly training fire departments. The only way to safely remove someone trapped in a grain bin is to remove the grain around the person’s body — using a grain rescue tube or cofferdam. Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact Doug Becker at beckerdl@nationwide.com or (515) 508-5590.
square baler by the time he was nine.

David had other responsibilities besides his family and the farm. He was a self-employed insurance agent. “He always said he sold insurance to be able to farm,” Gerry said.

The three men continued on, with Butch and Gerry gradually taking over more of the farm responsibilities, as well as holding down full-time jobs and starting families of their own.

In 2000, David was diagnosed with cancer. He continued to try to help on the farm, but soon the boys, their wives and their families were handling the day-to-day operations. The Law family lost its patriarch Aug. 30, 2003, after a three-year battle with cancer.

Carrying on the family legacy is important to the family. “It is a very rewarding life; a hard life. It is constant and there is no let up,” said Butch. “I have asked myself a lot of times why I’m doing this. I am doing this for Dad,” he said with watery eyes, “and for these grandkids. This is a good place to raise kids.”

Butch is married to Susie and together they have three children, including son Jamie Law (Jodi) and two daughters, Rachel Shriver (Joey) and Vanessa Gandee (Richard). Butch and Susie currently have five grandchildren and are awaiting the birth of their sixth grandchild later this year.

Gerry and his wife Cookie have two children, a son, Andy Law (April) and a daughter, Gara Beth Satterfield (Michael) and they also have five grandchildren.

“Dad always said it was a good life and the grandkids say it’s a good life growing up on the farm,” Gerry said. “They learn stuff out here that they wouldn’t learn anywhere else,” added Butch. “We get them involved in 4-H and livestock at an early age. They get attached to the animals and learn life skills from being involved.”

“He would have loved every minute of it,” Marlene said of David.

The Law family is the tenth West Virginia family to receive the Farming Heritage Award, sponsored by the State Fair of West Virginia and the West Virginia Farm Bureau. The family was recognized during the West Virginia State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 20, during Governor’s Day. A luncheon reception, which included Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee, members of the West Virginia Farm Bureau board of directors and other dignitaries, was held in their honor.

Emotionally, Butch ended by saying, “I thank Mom and Dad and God I’ve had the opportunity to do this.”

Jennifer Metheney is an assistant in the WVU Extension office in Ritchie County.
The 2015 State Fair of West Virginia has come and gone, but not without an array of carnival rides, corndogs and critters. Volunteers from several counties helped WVFB staff man the booth and greet visitors. Beautiful weather and an extra day added to the fair schedule this year enabled families to work in a visit despite advanced school start dates.
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West Virginia Farm Bureau News

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Although brisket is generally regarded as a cool weather dish, you may be surprised how this ultimate comfort food works in delicious recipes that help you hang on to the fading days of summer.

A traditional Barbecued Beef Brisket prepared low and slow over a charcoal grill is sure to be a crowd pleaser for a backyard tailgate or a casual gathering with friends. Leftovers can help warm up a cool morning with a decadent serving of Barbecue Benedict, and you can look forward to a Grilled Greek Salad Pita with Beef Brisket for a tasty midday meal.

As any grill master knows, achieving grilling greatness begins with a charcoal fire. These recipes, created by world champion pitmaster Chris Lilly, showcase how Kingsford® Charcoal can help you achieve an authentic smoky flavor that will delight the taste buds of your family and friends. Each briquet contains natural ingredients and real wood for a delicious cookout every time. Find more recipes featuring your favorite grilled meats at www.kingsford.com.
**Barbecue Beef Brisket**

Makes: 8-10 servings  
Prep time: 30 minutes  
Cook time: 5-6 hours  
1 beef brisket flat (5-6 pounds)  
1 tablespoon beef bouillon base  
Dry Rub  
1 cup beef broth  
Dry Rub:  
1/2 tablespoon salt  
1/2 tablespoon paprika  
1/2 tablespoon black pepper  
1/2 tablespoon sugar  
3/4 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon onion powder  
1/4 teaspoon oregano  
1/8 teaspoon ground coriander  
Build a charcoal fire with Kingsford charcoal for indirect cooking by situating coals on only one side of grill, leaving other side void.  
Cover entire brisket with beef bouillon base. In small bowl, mix dry rub ingredients and coat brisket with rub. When cooker reaches 225°F, place brisket on void side of grill and close lid. Cook for 4 hours, until internal temperature reaches 160-170°F.  
Remove brisket from grill and place in shallow baking dish or disposable aluminum pan. Pour beef broth over brisket and cover pan with aluminum foil. Place baking dish in cooker for an additional 1-2 hours, until internal temperature reaches 185°F.  
Remove baking dish from grill and let meat rest undisturbed for 20-30 minutes. Slice brisket across grain and serve.

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**Barbecue Benedict**

Makes: 6 servings  
Prep time: 45 minutes  
Cook time: 7 minutes  
1 white onion cut into 1/2-inch-thick strips  
Onion Marinade  
Barbecue Benedict Sauce  
3 English muffins cut in half  
1 pound leftover beef brisket  
6 poached eggs  
Onion Marinade:  
9 tablespoons soy sauce  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
6 tablespoons water  
6 teaspoons dark brown sugar  
3/4 teaspoon garlic powder  
3/4 teaspoon black pepper  
Barbecue Benedict Sauce:  
3 egg yolks  
1 teaspoon vinegar  
1 teaspoon water  
1 cup butter, melted  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
Pinch of cayenne pepper  
3 tablespoons of your favorite KC Masterpiece barbecue sauce  
In small bowl, mix onion marinade ingredients. Pour marinade into resealable plastic bag and add onion strips. Let marinate for 30 minutes.  
For sauce, place egg yolks, vinegar and water into stainless steel bowl and vigorously whip until mixture is thickened and doubled in volume. Place bowl over sauce pan containing barely simmering water (just below boil), making sure bottom of bowl does not touch water. Whisk continuously, making sure eggs don’t get too hot or they will scramble. Very slowly drizzle melted butter into mixture while whisking rapidly until mixture thickens and doubles in volume. Remove from heat and stir in remaining sauce ingredients.  
Build charcoal fire for direct grilling. Place onion strips in grill basket and cook directly over hot coals (approximately 450°F), stirring often for 5 minutes or until onions brown and start to soften. Remove onions from grill and set aside.  
Place English muffin halves directly over hot coals for 2 minutes or until toasted. Remove each from grill and top with leftover beef brisket, grilled onions and a poached egg. Drizzle with Barbecue Benedict Sauce.
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