

West Virginia

Farm Bureau News

April 2024



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the Mountain State*

April 2024

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On the Cover: Virginia Bluebells, Randolph County. Photo by Al Tucker

EASTERN

West Virginia Community & Technical College

Agriculture Innovation 2024 Trainings April-June

TRAINING/EVENTS	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	COST
HORTICULTURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION			
Integrated Pest Management*	Tuesday, April 16 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.	Eastern WV Community Action Moorefield, WV 26836	\$20
Crop Management 101	Wednesday, May 22 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.	White Barn Market, Moorefield, WV 26836	\$20
Instructed by Dr. Lewis Jett of WVU Extension		*Instructed by Dr. Carlos Quesada of WVU Extension	
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS			
Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)	Friday, June 14 8 A.M. - 10 A.M.	Tri-County Fairgrounds Petersburg, WV 26847	\$20
Instructed by Dr. Kevin Shaffer of WVU Extension			
Stockmanship & Stewardship	Friday, June 14 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Tri-County Fairgrounds Petersburg, WV 26847	\$20
Instructed by Dr. Ron Gill of Texas A&M Extension			



EASTERN FOUNDATION'S FARM-TO-TABLE 2024

Save The Date!

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 **Event Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. / Dinner at 6 p.m.

Location: Misty Mountain Event Barn, 450 Misty Mountain Rd, Fisher, WV 26818

Learn more by calling 304-434-8000 ext. 9258. Watch for ticket sales at easternwv.edu/foundation & on Facebook @ewvctcfoundation.



Words from CEO and
Founder of Swilled Dog,
Brooke Glover

Live Music Performance by
Country Music Artist,
Wyatt Turner



**Contact: aginnovation@easternwv.edu and call 304-434-8000 ext. 9606
to register for these trainings and learn more!**



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Around the Dome

Dwayne O'Dell, WVFB Director of Government Relations



I hope each of you are enjoying spring. It's a great time of year as you plant your garden, finish calving or lambing, and schedule your spring agricultural activities. Please review the following information.

The 2024 Feeding the Economy Report was recently released to indicate the economic impact of agricultural production from nearly 2 million farms in the United States economy. The full report may be found at www.FeedingTheEconomy.com. Important data from the research included the following:

1. The agricultural industry directly supports nearly 24 million jobs.
2. Farmers are responsible for \$9.6 trillion of our country's economic activities (20 percent of all U.S. output).
3. Approximately 200,000 food manufacturing, processing, and storage facilities operate to keep our food supply chain operating and safe.
4. Agriculture is responsible for \$2.8 trillion in wages to agricultural employees.
5. Agricultural operations paid \$1.3 trillion in taxes.
6. Total agricultural exports were valued at \$181.4 billion in 2023.

The Congressional Research Service has reported that 7 percent of all U.S. food waste is because of date labeling confusion. USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) defines "use by" and "best if used by" as references to peak food quality rather than the date after which the food is no longer safe to eat.

Currently, there is no official standard for food labeling in the U.S., which in some cases has led to consumer confusion about label dates. The Food Date Labeling Act was recently introduced in Congress to try to achieve more clarity on the issue. A Perdue University study found that 50 percent of consumers associate the "use by" date with food safety, and 30 percent believe these labels indicate food quality. The Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration recently reported that fresh produce is comparable to raw meats for causes of food-borne illnesses in the U.S.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Multiple studies show that farmer suicide rates are 2 to 5 times higher than the national average. National

disasters, market conditions, labor shortages, and financial uncertainty often leads to increased levels of depression and anxiety. Additional information may be accessed at www.farmfoundation.org, www.ruralminds.org, or www.livingworks.net.

The 2024 West Virginia legislative session finished up on March 9. Over 2,500 bills and resolutions were considered, with 279 bills receiving approval by both the House and Senate. As of this writing, Governor Justice has signed 71 bills and vetoed one. SB 200, known as the budget bill, authorizes a \$4.96 billion budget. Late in the session, information regarding a possible \$450 million payback to the federal government of COVID money froze tax cut bills with the exception of the Social Security tax exemption bill. The Governor has indicated a possible April or May special session to address other budget issues.

SB 171 was of great importance to the WVFB. It prevents county governments from enacting ordinances, rules, or other authorizations that are stricter than or contravenes state law. The bill also prevents county actions that prohibit the purchase of or alters the permissible use and application of any federally or state registered pesticide, herbicides, or insecticide products. The bill does not affect any other responsibilities of county commissions as outlined in Chapter 7 of the West Virginia Code. The Governor has signed the bill, and it will take effect on May 13, 2024. Many thanks to all who worked on the bill or made contact with legislators on this important piece of legislation.

The primary election is just around the corner. The 2024 candidate list may be found at www.GoVoteWV.com. Please remember that the voter registration deadline is April 23, 2024.

As I think about voting, I am reminded of President Abraham Lincoln's statement. He said, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

Have a great day!



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The Zipline

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation



Farmers Come to Capitol Hill to Call for Ag Labor Reform

For decades now, farmers and ranchers have been advocating for a solution to our nation's broken agricultural labor system. Yet, instead of progress, we've only seen this situation get worse as the number of skilled workers continues to dwindle and programs like H-2A fail to keep up with the changing needs of agriculture.

From across the country, our farmers and ranchers have raised their voices that the shortage of labor is the greatest limiting factor on their farms and some have given up farming because of labor costs, like April Clayton, who testified before Washington state lawmakers about the heart wrenching decision to rent out their land instead of farming it.

That is why at Farm Bureau, ag labor remains at the top of our priority list. We're committed to advocating for meaningful reform to immigration and guest worker programs while focusing on making sure we get it right for all our farm and ranch families.

Fortunately, we have seen some movement as the House Committee on Agriculture's Agriculture Labor Working Group recently released their final report, making it clear, once again, that there is bipartisan agreement on the need to improve the H-2A program to better serve American agriculture. Now it's time to turn up the volume on our advocacy efforts to ensure that Congress doesn't just agree on the problem but also provides a solution.

"The challenges of agricultural labor can no longer be ignored."

One of the most powerful tools to inspire action are the real life stories of farmers and ranchers across the country. Time and time again, I have seen firsthand how effective our members are in impacting policy, and I know that ag labor is no exception. It's your experiences that will continue to paint a vivid picture for our elected officials of just how urgently this change is needed for our farms and the hardworking men and women we employ.

Just this week, several Farm Bureau members from across the country who run different types of farms came to our nation's capital to meet with members of Congress and share their unique perspective and insights on the urgency of addressing ag labor for their farms to succeed.

For example, we had John Boelts, a diversified crop farmer from Arizona come to discuss how the success of his family farm and employees are at risk as labor has become the biggest issue in their state with a new minimum wage rate and shortage of labor.

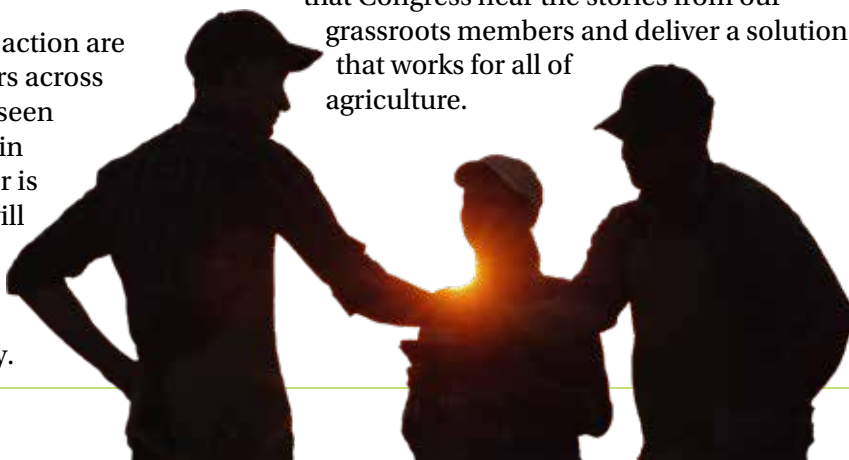
We also welcomed Karin Reeves from New York here to share the story of how many mid-size vegetable and fruit operations are facing the challenge of going under due to the H-2A wage calculation and their inability to compete with imports from Canada and Mexico.

April Clayton also joined us to share with lawmakers in Washington, DC, the same harsh reality she shared with lawmakers in her home state.

This is just a snapshot of what is happening on farms across the country, as farmers struggle to sustain their businesses with rising costs and limited resources.

The challenges of agricultural labor can no longer be ignored. We must ensure a manageable, accessible and sustainable guest worker program that allows us to keep providing jobs on our farms at competitive wages, as we work alongside our employees to keep our nation's food supply secure and sustainable.

Our farmers and ranchers have had to grapple with these challenges for far too long and with each passing season a larger threat of loss grows for our farms, our workers and our nation's food security. It's imperative that Congress hear the stories from our grassroots members and deliver a solution that works for all of agriculture.



County Corner *News from the Fifty-Five*

Hampshire County



Hampshire County Farm Bureau members met earlier this week at the beautiful Shanholtz Orchard with representatives of Kentucky Farm Bureau, WVFB President, Charlie Wilfong and FB Insurance Company Territory Manager, Karen Mallick to talk insurance and enjoy lunch. Photo by Mike Iser.



Taylor County

Safety Day on Tap

Taylor County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a Safety Day on May 10th at Taylor County Middle School, Pruntytown, WV. ATV, Fire Extinguisher Use, Bees, Food, and Railroad will be among the topics covered. Personnel from the DNR at Tygart Valley Lake will also be on hand to cover boating, water, fishing, trapping, and swimming safety. A light lunch will be served.



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Donald J. Trump (R)

U.S. Senate

Alexander X. Mooney (R)

U.S. House of Representatives

District 1 - Carol Miller (R)

District 2 - Joseph (Joe) Earley (R)

WV Governor

Patrick Morrisey (R)

WV Secretary of State

Kris Warner (R)

WV Auditor

Eric L. Householder (R)

WV State Treasurer

Larry Pack (R)

WV Commissioner of Agriculture

Kent Leonhardt (R)

WV Attorney General

John "JB" McKuskey (R)

WV Senate

District #1 - Ryan W. Weld (R)

District #2 - Mike Maroney (R)

District #3 - Donna J. Boley (R)

District #4 - Amy Nichole Grady (R)

District #5 - Ric Griffith (D)

District #6 - Chandler Swope (R)

District #7 - Rupie Phillips (R)

District #8 - Glenn D. Jeffries (R)

District #10 - Jack David Woodrum (R)

District #11 - Robert Lee Karnes (R)

District #12 - Patrick S. Martin (R)

District #14 - Randy E. Smith (R)

District #15 - Craig Blair (R)

District #16 - Paul Espinosa (R),
Patrica Rucker (R)

District #17 - Eric Nelson (R)

WV House of Delegates

District #1 - Pat McGeehan (R)

District #2 - Mark Zatezalo (R)

District #3 - Jimmy Willis (R)

District #4 - Diana Winzenreid (R)

District #5 - Shawn Fluharty (D)

District #6 - Jeff Stephens (R)

District #7 - Charles R. Sheedy Sr. (R)

District #8 - David L. Kelly (R)

District #9 - Trenton Carl Barnhart (R)

District #10 - Bill Anderson (R)

District #11 - Bob Fehrenbacher (R)

District #12 - Vernon Criss (R)

District #13 - Scot Heckert (R)

District #14 - Dave Foggin (R)

District #15 - Martin "Rick" Atkinson (R)

District #16 - Frederick Happy Joe
Parsons (R)

District #17 - Jonathan Adam Pinson (R)

District #18 - Jim Butler (R)

District #19 - Kathie Hess Crouse (R)

District #20 - Sarah Drennan (R)

District #21 - Jarred Cannon (R)

District #22 - Daniel Linville (R)

District #23 - Evan Worrell (R)

District #24 - Patrick Lucas (R)

District #26 - Matthew Rohrbach (R)

District #27 - Jeff Maynard (R)

District #28 - Samatha Stephens (R)

District #29 - Nate Randolph (R)

District #30 - David "Flimsy" Adkins (R)

District #31 - Margitta Mazzocchi (R)

District #32 - Josh Holstein (R)

District #34 - Mark Dean (R)

District #35 - Adam Vance (R)

District #36 - David Green (R)

District #37 - Mary Gearheart (R)

District #38 - Joe C. Ellington Jr. (R)

District #39 - Doug Smith (R)

District #40 - Roy G. Cooper (R)

District #41 - Jordan Allen Maynor (R)

District #42 - Brandon Steele (R)

District #43 - Christopher Toney (R)

District #45 - Eric Brooks (R)

District #46 - Jeff Campbell (R)

District #47 - George "Boogie"

Ambler (R), Ray Canterbury (R)

District #48 - Thomas Clark (R)

District #49 - Heather Tully (R)

District #50 - David "Elliott" Pritt (R)

District #51 - Marshall W. Clay (R)

District #55 - J.B. Akers (R)

District #58 - Walter Hall (R)

District #59 - Andy Shamblin (R)

District #60 - Dana Ferrell (R)

District #61 - Dean Jeffries (R)

District #62 - Roger Hanshaw (R)

District #63 - Lori Dittman (R)

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District #67 - Elias Coop-Gonzalez (R)

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District #71 - Laura Kimble (R)

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District #74 - Michael E. DeVault (R)

District #75 - Phil Mallow (R)

District #77 - Joe Statler (R)

District #78 - Gino Chiarelli (R)

District #80 - John Williams (D)

District #81 - Anitra Hamilton (D)

District #83 - George Street (R)

District #84 - D. Rolland Jennings (R)

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District #86 - Bryan C. Ward (R)

District #87 - Gary G. Howell (R)

District #88 - Rick Hillenbrand (R)

District #89 - Darren J. Thorne (R)

District #90 - George Miller (R)

District #91 - Don Forsht (R)

District #92 - Michel Hite (R)

District #93 - Mike Hornby (R)

District #94 - Larry D. Kump (R)

District #95 - Charles "Chuck" K.
Horst (R)

District #98 - Joe Funkhouser (R)

District #99 - Wayne Clark (R)

District #100 - William Ridenour (R)

God, Farming, and Sourdough Bread

....Stories from the Farm

Susan Wilkins Taylor



In 2020, Sherman and I undertook many home improvement projects. We planted trees in the yard, created my dream rock garden with a pond, painted and installed trellis, stained the yard fence, and.... Bought picture hangers for my staircase “family photo wall.” For four years, the hangers have been in the drawer and the framed photos have collected dust in a pile at the top of the staircase.

Finally, this spring, we started hanging our family photo wall. In the very middle is our wedding photo with our immediate families. With that as the main focal point, to the left going up the stairs are photos from my side of the family. And to the right, going down the stairs, are photos of Sherman’s side. The photos make me happy and nostalgic and sad at the same time. There’s my grandmother Wilkins as a young woman, wearing pants and sitting on a horse in the early 1900s. My handsome grandfather JC. My great grandmother Miss Mac, leaning on the porch column of her beautiful old house. My grandparents Wilfong as young people; maybe shortly after that double date they went on with other people, but ended up together afterwards. My daddy as a baby. My momma as a little girl in a dress that we recently learned was given to her by a sweet teenager up the road -- my husband’s aunt. My great grandmother Orpha Susanna who I was named for.

I think of the lives of all these amazing grandparents and great grandparents. And how very lucky I am that I have even a few of their stories. I think of the sacrifices all these people have made for their families and to leave the world a little better. My life feels vastly insignificant in comparison. Grandmother Wilkins, for instance, working as a young woman during the Depression years; every penny of her teacher’s salary going to pay the property taxes to keep the family land.

I can’t wait to show my wall to my nephews and niece. I want them to see these people who have been so important in our family tree. Their lives and their stories are too important to be forgotten. It occurs to me that this might be the problem with our world and our country. We are getting too far from our roots; too far from the people who made us who we are.

It is unfathomable to me what our very early ancestors must have faced, and how they felt, when they left Germany and Scotland and England in pursuit of freedom and better lives for their families. We put so much stock into what we *have* – cars and homes, cows and tractors. Our ancestors came to this country with nothing, just searching for freedom and something better. What must that have felt like? It seems nearly every generation since has been fighting to keep the very freedom they came here for, because we keep forgetting that freedom is really the only thing that matters.

I was blessed to be able to visit Scotland once several years ago on a trip through West Virginia University. A group of us stood on a green, green bluff on Scotland’s rocky coastline. Hereford cattle grazed all around us. The sea was beautiful and haunting. I had never been in a more beautiful place. I felt I was in a mystical and altogether different world. Sensing my thoughts, a fellow traveler turned to me and said, “It makes it hard to imagine how bad life must have been for our ancestors to have left this place.” Those words have stuck with me ever since.

Indeed. How bad must it have been? We can never forget the sacrifices made by our early ancestors and our families over the years. All to get us to where we are. Don’t forget. Keep the stories alive. There are many who need to be reminded, and there is a whole new generation who desperately needs to hear them for the first time.



Mains of Airies Hereford Farm on the Galloway Peninsula, Scotland

Long-Time Board Member Passes



William "Bill" Ingram, 91, of Sistersville, WV passed away February 13, 2024 at home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born July 16, 1932 in Sistersville, WV, the son of the late Paul Ingram and Rachel Tracy Ingram.

Bill was a third-generation dairy farmer and owner of Ingram Farms in Sistersville.

Known for his strong dedication to the community and youth education programs, he was a founding member of the Tyler County 4-H Foundation. Bill received the WV Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award in 2012 and was honored as the 1975 Outstanding Soil Conservation Farmer. He also received the Friend of 4-H Award in 1991 and an Honorary Chapter Farm Degree from FFA.

Bill was a member of the Tyler County Fair Association from 1973-1998 and served in many offices. He worked to build a community building at the fairgrounds and was

manager of the Tyler County Speedway in 1979-80. He took a seat on the board of Union Bank of Tyler County in 1985 and became a founding member of Hometown Bancshares Inc. when Union Bank was reorganized in 1998, restoring it to local ownership and control. He personally purchased many properties to preserve as farmland for future generations and was a well-known face at FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Shows.

Bill was active in the West Virginia Association of Fairs and Festivals from 1991-2006 and held many offices in that organization. He was a member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau Board of Directors and was instrumental in the development of the organization's Mobile Agriculture Science Education Lab, to which he donated \$25,000 in 2017. He was a member of the WV/Ohio Dairy Herd Improvement Association Board of Directors, and his farm has been designated as a Century Farm by the Upper Ohio Conservation District. Bill was also a trustee of the Pursley Church of Christ.





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NINE TIPS TO HELP PREVENT VEHICLE THEFT

Vehicle thefts are on the rise across the country. Nation-wide, more than 1 million vehicles were reported stolen to law enforcement in 2022, a 7% increase since 2021, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

Of all stolen vehicles in West Virginia, the most stolen—by far—are full-size pick-ups. In 2022, 103 Chevrolet full-size pickups were reported stolen in the entire state, followed closely by Ford full-size pickups (90 reported stolen).

Did you know that, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), less than 60% of stolen vehicles are recovered? But research has found that nearly half of all vehicle thefts can be prevented. Consider the following precautionary measures to help you from becoming a victim:

1. Park in a well-lit area.
2. Always take your keys with you, even if you're just planning to be gone for a few minutes.
3. When leaving your vehicle for any amount of time, roll up your windows and lock your doors.
4. Keep your doors locked, even when your car is in "drive." In recent years, carjacking has become a concerning trend—especially in major cities. If someone attempts to steal your car while you are in the driver seat, do not resist. Your life cannot be replaced, but a vehicle can.
5. Remove valuables from the vehicle or place them in the trunk. Remember, just because you don't consider something valuable doesn't mean it won't catch a thief's attention.

6. If you don't have a garage at home, consider installing motion sensor security lights. While lights may not provide complete security, they could scare off a potential thief.
7. During winter months—unless you have a remote start—avoid the temptation to warm your car up. Cold weather is prime time for "warm-up theft," leaving tens of thousands of people nationwide the victim of vehicle theft every year.
8. Many newer model vehicles come equipped with anti-theft systems. If you have an older model that does not include these built-in security features, consider adding a visible or audible anti-theft device to your vehicles, such as an alarm system, steering column lock, or theft deterrent decals. Some vehicle owners even choose to add a tracking system, which can track the location of a car and significantly improve the odds of it being recovered faster and with less damage.
9. If your vehicle has been stolen, contact police immediately to increase the chance of recovery. Once you have a police report in hand, provide a copy of that report to your insurance agent as soon as possible.

According to NICB, the U.S. is seeing the highest vehicle theft numbers since 2008, with no hopes for a downward trend anytime soon. The FB Insurance Company – West Virginia encourages you to stay vigilant in the fight against keeping this costly theft from occurring!





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When it comes to insurance, it's important to have the right coverage from a company you can trust. If the unexpected happens, you can depend on **The FB Insurance Company - West Virginia** to help protect the people and things you love most.

Growing Young

Michelle Wilfong, Young Farmer and Rancher Chair



On March 3, 2024, 15 YF&R committee members met at the WV Farm Bureau Office for their annual met & greet. This was a time for members to meet one another and plan activities for the upcoming year. A hot topic of conversation was how YF&R members can be more active at the county level. A few activities that we hope to participate in is reading books during National Ag Day, conducting a farm safety day, State FFA Convention, WV State Fair, delivering book barns & annual meeting! In addition, monthly zoom calls have been set up in order to stay in communication with one another. If you have an activity that you would like us to participate in, please let us know! We would love to assist to the best of our abilities! We are pleased to announce the 2024 YF&R Committee that was approved at the January board meeting:

Caleb/Brittan Barley-Fayette
Justin Cook/Bryce Berg-Grant County
Jaimee Carr-Grant County
Maggie/Cody Blankenship-Putnam
Lacen Forbes- Monongalia County
Justin/Maggie Frye-Hardy County
Mariah Hatton-Monongalia County
Jessica Hoover/Wesley Mills-Pendleton County
Miranda King-Roane County
Elizabeth Lynch-Berkeley County
Helen McCarty-Mineral County
Cody Mitchell-Pendleton County
Charity Morrison-Pocahontas County
Dakota Pritt/Haley Bennett-Randolph County
Lance Sims-Wirt County
Bradley/Emily Walker-Pendleton County
Sara Wayne-Braxton County



Megan Webb-Mineral County
Charles II/Michelle Wilfong-Pocahontas County
Lindsay Bever-Upshur County



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2024 WV Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Name of High School Currently Attending: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Are you a current FFA member? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you a current 4-H member? _____ Yes _____ No

Is your parent/guardian a current dues paying member
of the WV Farm Bureau: _____ Yes _____ No If so, what county? _____

Attach Personal Essay Topic: How has the WV Farm Bureau impacted your life and how do you plan
to remain involved in agriculture? (2 page limit)

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

If selected, your name/photo/essay will be published in the WV Farm Bureau magazine.

Recipient will be recognized at the WV Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November.

Thank you for submitting this application.

Good luck to you as you strive to accomplish your educational goals

(see reverse side)

2024 WV Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship Application (cont.)

Activities, Awards, Honors

Please list activities in which you have participated during the past four years, such as student government, sports, clubs, etc. List all community activities in which you have participated without pay during the past four years such as volunteer work. Indicate all awards, honors and offices held and/or received.

Goals and Aspirations

Make a statement of your plans as they relate to your educational and career objectives and future goals.

FFA/4-H

Please describe your FFA SAE or your 4-H projects during the past four years.

Applications must be received by: May 17, 2024

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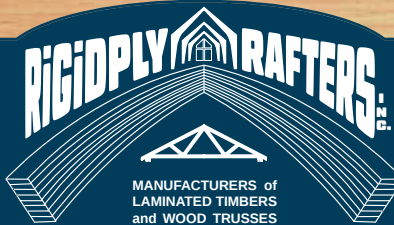
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2024 FARM BUREAU YF&R LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

—by *Mariah Hatton*

Lacen Forbes, Cody Mitchell, and me of the YFR committee along with Steve and Greg Mitchell spent March 8-11 out in Omaha, NE for the AFBF YF&R Conference. After experiencing a rocky start at the Pittsburgh airport at 4 am thanks to VERY LONG security lines (thankfully they held the plane for us) we had a great weekend.

A huge part of the reason that we all went was to support Cody who represented West Virginia YF&R in the Collegiate Discussion Meet. Cody did an amazing job, and we are so happy he had the opportunity to represent West Virginia on the national stage.

The conference is known for leadership training, networking opportunities, seeing how agriculture differs throughout the country, and seeing old friends (and making new ones). We sat in on sessions for farm transition planning, advocacy, and leadership preparedness. In addition, we heard from motivational speakers who told us to try to do hard better and always be comfortable in the uncomfortable. We heard from 4 brave individuals who discussed their mental health journeys on stage in front of all 800+ of us and had an informal Q&A with AFBF President, Zippy Duvall, before leaving on our tours. Mariah's farm tour this year was a wine tour to 2 different vineyards growing similar grapes, but their end wine products were very different due to the different aging processes. The rest of the crew toured Lauritzen Gardens which is a 100-acre urban oasis in downtown Omaha. They also went to Joslyn Castle, also in downtown Omaha, which was built for

George and Sarah Joslyn who owned the Western Newspaper Union in Omaha.

We certainly had a great time in Omaha and are already looking forward to traveling to Denver next March with more of our YF&R Committee members and the Women's Leadership Committee for FUSION.





Cody Mitchell

I traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to compete in the YF&R collegiate discussion meet. It was an honor to sit down with bright, innovative individuals from across the country to discuss and find solutions to various issues affecting agriculture today. It is very encouraging to attend an event like this and see how promising the future of agriculture is in the hands of these young farmers, ready to tackle any challenge which may come their way. I will forever remember this opportunity and am thankful for it and all the wonderful people that I met along the way.



80th Annual West Virginia FFA Ham, Bacon & Egg Show & Sale Highlights

The Annual FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale was held March 11th at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia. The show is sponsored by the Governor's Office, the West Virginia Department of Education, and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and presents the opportunity for students to exhibit and sell their products.



Briar Utte
Tyler County



Russell VanCamp
Pine Grove



Alaina Luce
Cameron



Tessa Dulaney (Ham)
Whitney Brown (Bacon)
Pine Grove



Kayley Smith
Cabell Midland



Foundation Ham
Auctioneer Greg Murphy, Kroger Representative Maggie Christ, FFA President Isaiah Ash, & Auctioneer Ron Morrison pose with the record-breaking \$10,000.00 Foundation Ham.



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Perseverance, Character, Hope

How a Young Man from West Virginia Turned a Little Inspiration into a Big Vision for the Future of Fencing

—by Ron Williams

While attending the 2024 Appalachian Grazing Conference in Morgantown, it was hard not to notice that one vendor in particular was garnering most of the attention. It was also not hard to miss that the attendees stuck around for a *long* time. While watching all this for two days, it was obvious that there was something different going on there. What was it? Was it a catchy name? No, “Efficient Fencer” is okay, but that was not the reason. Was it a flashy product? No, flash will typically fade, and these folks had places to be. There were a lot of things to do at that conference.

Well, things finally settled down enough that we got to meet up, and the reason soon became obvious. Joshua Acacio had a story to tell...and people love a good story. We connect with people when we hear their story. When we hear how they started their business, how they faced adversity and became who they are today, then suddenly they not only become real to us, but they become a qualified expert! This is Joshua’s story:

Joshua Acacio, resides in Williamsburg, West Virginia along with his wife, Cassie, and their four children. They live on a small piece of land, in a house that they built. They started working towards being as self-sustainable as possible. Joshua is the owner of Acacio’s

Fencing, which he started in 2014. He and his brother, Terry, specialize in agricultural fencing and designing and building cattle working pens with grooved non-slip concrete.

Joshua said, “I grew up on a beef cattle farm in Greenbrier County, which is one of the top cattle producing counties in the state. Fencing was always a struggle; with cattle constantly getting out, especially in the heat of the summer when you were rushing to do a million other things. I was always searching for a faster and more efficient way to build new fence because we had so many other things to do; there wasn’t much time to waste. My dad always said, ‘The light is green, if you can figure out a better way to do it, go for it.’ Little did I know those words would go on to change the way high-tensile smooth wire is installed today.”

“My parents have always instilled a very solid work ethic in me. I grew up watching both of my parents work very hard to ensure we had all that we needed. My mom is one of the strongest, most caring women you will ever meet, and she can grow a garden to feed an army. My dad is a dedicated farmer and devotes much of his life to his land and cattle. They have both always been very inspiring and taught me how to persevere.”





The Acacio Family

“Speaking of perseverance” he continued, “I had a two-mile-long fencing job that had to be completed in a short amount of time. This job required 10 strand high-tensile smooth wire with 3 hots/electric--this type of fence is great for fence line weaning calves, keeping bulls and heifers separated, and rotational grazing. It works great in wooded areas, as it is easy to repair if a tree falls on it. This job was in limestone country and the terrain was very steep. I knew from my experiences on other large high-tensile jobs that completing a job of this size was either going to take a much bigger crew or a more efficient approach. The light was still green, and I only had a couple weeks before we would start this job, so I set out for a faster, more efficient way to build the fence. I designed and invented a fencing machine that would make one pass down the fence line and all 10-strand of the high-tensile wire would be installed in one trip. What would have taken us over 60 hours to install, only took us 16 hours with the machine.”

“This machine was just getting started. The low material and labor cost of high tensile compared to woven wire/stay wire has caused high demand of 8 and 10 strand high tensile smooth wire with 2-3 hots/electrified in my area. As of now, we have installed well over 250,000 feet (roughly 47 miles) of 8 and 10

strand high-tensile smooth wire with our machines. I have spent countless hours perfecting the machines performance and it has been put to the test on every type of terrain imaginable. I have since then decided to patent and start manufacturing and selling the Efficient Fencers machines to farmers, ranchers and fence builders,” he said.

Efficient Fencer and Fabrication is operated out of Lewisburg, WV where they manufacture the machines. They offer models to fit all different needs: 3-point hitch for tractors, the base model for skid- steers, the trailer model and the pro-series for the professional fence builder. They also offer a woven wire dispenser and manufacture individual high tensile de-reelers that are built to last.

Joshua takes pride in these machines being “Built in West Virginia, USA.” He also likes to leave his listeners with these thoughts: “If you have a dream or are passionate about something; go after it with all your heart--even if others think you cannot do it or say it cannot be done, even if you doubt yourself. God gives you the dream or the idea because He created you to be able to handle the challenges that come along with the journey to your dream, and if I ever feel like quitting, I remind myself of the quote by Albert Einstein, ‘You never fail until you stop trying.’”



Joshua Acacio

Is Copper Deficiency Killing Your Sheep?

By Alexandria Smith, WVU Extension Agent – Hardy County

Are the micronutrient deficiencies what is causing production problems with sheep?

West Virginia is known for its rolling hills and lush green pastures, which makes it an ideal place for raising livestock. Over the past few years, sheep production has been on the rise. Sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2020, was estimated at 33,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2019. Many new producers are switching to breeds of sheep that do not require shearing but are being faced with other production issues. Major losses of sheep are typically linked to predator or parasite issues, but they also battle foot rot, poor body condition and lamb losses.

Setting aside the predator issues, internal parasites are the number one issue producers face. Decades of misuse of anthelmintics have caused internal parasites to build up resistance to the drugs. Sheep in the United States are viewed as a minor livestock species, which means they do not always get priority when researching new control methods or the development of new treatments and nutrition requirements. This has caused producers to look closely at the sheep within the flock that always seem to have the problems. We know that when the nutrition is poor and the body gets deficient in any nutrient, it can make it susceptible to not only the deficiency itself, but also parasites, bacteria, fungus and viruses.

Starting at the building blocks of any animal agriculture, we need to look at soil, water and forages. All ruminants have a requirement of copper. Assumptions have been made that our soils provide enough copper that made deficiencies uncommon, especially with commercial fertilizers, but there are more things to consider in that process. Copper



When sheep become deficient in any nutrient, it can make them susceptible to not only the deficiency itself, but also parasites, bacteria, fungus and viruses.

deficiency occurs in two ways: low copper levels in plants due to copper-deficient soils and induced deficiency caused by ingestion of excessive levels of molybdenum and sulfur in pastures or feed supplements. West Virginia is known for its acidic soils, and pH is often one of the most limiting factors, it also is usually the first one corrected with liming applications. So, when soil pH rises, molybdenum is released and consumed, which can lead to copper deficiency symptoms.

After a producer in the southern part of the state noticed he had a heavier lamb crop when he supplemented with cattle minerals, an idea was born. Is the environment in West Virginia causing the sheep to be deficient in copper? As a team of faculty members from WVU Extension and the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, we decided to pursue



a research project to study supplementing sheep with copper through a grant obtained from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE).

The margin of error between toxicity and deficiency is narrow, so we were diligent in assessing the levels of copper in the soils, water and forages of the three research sites we decided on. The research sites varied in location around the state and production methods.

Site one is in Moorefield, West Virginia – at this site, lambs are in confinement, and the lambs stay in confinement until they are sold. Site two is in Monroe County, West Virginia, lambs at this site are on pasture, and the producer grains until lambing begins, then doesn't grain again until lambs are weaned put into confinement. Site three is in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, where the lambs are on pasture and weaned when they are sold.

As per our research protocol, we needed to determine if the soils, water and forages in these areas had sufficient amounts of copper to adequately supply a sheep requirement. Each site tested soils separately in each field a sheep would be grazed in, tested each water source any sheep would be drinking from during high volumes and low volume times of the year, and collected forage samples in each pasture or hay crop during different times of the year anywhere the animals would be consuming forages. It was to no surprise that all sites and all fields were deficient in copper. We know from past WVU Extension research that copper and zinc are deficient for ruminant livestock in 40% to 50% of West Virginia pastures.

It is important to note that sulfur and molybdenum interact and impact copper absorption by ruminant livestock. In the Allegheny Plateau, sulfur is more variable and high levels of sulfur cause the most problems. To interpret forage test copper values, it is necessary to have values for sulfur and molybdenum because of this interaction.

Upon the determination that we were indeed deficient in copper, we moved forward with our research. Sheep's requirements for copper are at the same level as cattle, but sheep are less tolerant to toxicity. Pastures with less than 2.5 ppm copper are sometimes deficient for sheep. The copper requirement for sheep is listed at 5 ppm to 10 ppm, depending on the source. A recent publication from the National Resource Council and Virginia Cooperative Extension lists the copper requirement at 10 ppm. Some other Extension sources put the requirement at 5 ppm per day to reduce the risk of copper toxicosis. Some feed manufacturers refuse to put copper in a mineral or feed that is labeled for sheep for fear of copper toxicosis. In the absence of clear-cut clinical signs, the most convincing evidence of a copper deficiency is a response to treatment with copper.



In the U.S., sheep are viewed as a minor livestock species and don't always get priority when researching new control methods or treatments.

In each site, up to 50% of the sheep involved will be treated with the appropriate concentration of copper oxide wire particle (Copasure) boluses (CWPB). Sheep will be individually identified via RFID tags and production measures were evaluated and compared between treatment groups. Sheep will be evaluated for body condition score, weight gain, FAMACHA score, foot health and any additional animal health issues will be documented. Number of lambs born, number of lambs weaned, and weaning weights will be evaluated. Treated and untreated sheep are run together under identical conditions within each farm, class and physiological stage of production of livestock.

We are still one year out from the conclusion of this research project, but we have had many bumps in the road along the way. In year one, we did a subsample of the groups for a pilot project to ensure that no animals would be harmed during the experiment. No animals were harmed, and we determined that even though we did not see the difference in level of weight gain we wanted to between the treated and untreated lambs, we did have a decrease in parasite load of the animals treated with the CWPB. That year also was a year of high lamb prices and we lost some of the animals in the experiment to the market. Since this is on-farm research, and the farm is a business, we can't fault our producers for taking advantage of good market prices. The following year was summer 2023, and we experienced some severe weather conditions that we feel had a detrimental effect on the sheep in this trial. We had record heat and were in the USDA map for emergency drought classification by the end of summer. All the producers in this project saw negative impacts on the sheep in the project due to those weather conditions. Despite having no losses (minus dogs getting into one group), we really were unable to collect any good data to determine weight gain, but still saw decreases in parasite loads. We are excited to see the results from summer 2024.



Web Soil Survey: A Tool for Your Working Land

— submitted by Rebecca Haddix, NRCS-WV Public Affairs Specialist



Want to learn more about your working land? Try Web Soil Survey today. Photo Credit: Rebecca Haddix, NRCS West Virginia

Nearly all farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners across the country rely on one common resource for production: their soil. If you're interested in learning more about this medium that grows our nation's food, fuel, and fiber, we're here with a tool to help.

What is Web Soil Survey?

Web Soil Survey (WSS) is the largest public-facing natural resource database in the world. Whether you manage 10,000 acres or measure your land in square feet, you can use WSS to learn more about your soils through customizable maps, properties, and interpretations – all free and downloadable.

Why was Web Soil Survey created?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service released WSS in 2005 to provide better public access to national soils data and mapping. It is meant to provide general information – such as soil type and basic properties – to more complex data and interpretations.

In the words of Dave Hoover, former Director of the National Soil Survey Center, WSS “provides soils data, maps, and interpretations for general users and experts alike. If a landowner is interested in finding the soil type of her cropland, for instance, she can use WSS on a home computer to access that information. If she then chooses to work with NRCS to adopt conservation practices across her operation, the Soil Conservationist working with her can use WSS to learn more.”

What does this mean for you?

In short, WSS is customizable for everyone. No matter your interests or operation, you can use WSS in the way that's impactful for you and your working land.

How can I use Web Soil Survey?

WSS is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You don't need to create an account – just visit the WSS webpage and get started today.

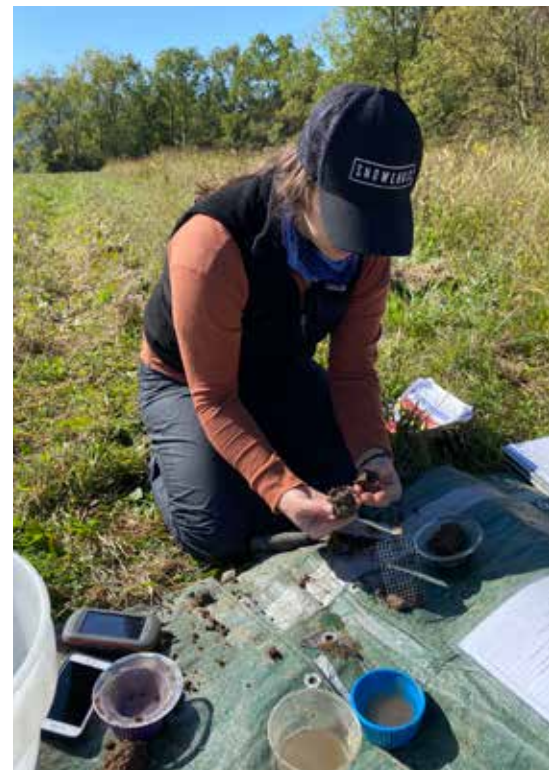
You can also visit your local service center if you'd like one-on-one support. There, an expert from NRCS can walk you through the tool and personalized applications for you.

When using WSS for the first time, it's helpful to start with a question. Are you looking to purchase new land and interested in productivity? Curious about farmland classifications? Unsure of expected erosion hazards across your operation? Or, maybe you're just interested in learning more about the basic properties of the soil in your backyard.

No matter your needs, WSS is a data-driven tool built for you. How could you use it to strengthen management decisions for your working land? Find out today.

For more information, visit the Web Soil Survey website at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>, or call your local NRCS office.

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Whether you're farming 10,000 acres or want to learn more about your backyard, WSS is a tool built for you. Photo Credit: Rebecca Haddix, NRCS West Virginia

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Growing a State and a Nation...

Telling the History of Agriculture in West Virginia Through Pictures and Stories



General Gardening Techniques and Habits

—by John H. Randolph, Harrison County

Loaded down with string, stakes, hoes and rakes, Momma and I went to the newly plowed garden. In her basket were the seeds, some new, but many from last year's crops. She was always proud of her "handed down seeds."

The tomato seeds had been carefully planted in small trays on St. Patrick's Day and had become tall and gangly as they grew by the kitchen window. The seeds had been saved from last year's tomatoes. The seeds, from a beautiful and "best of its kind" tomato, had been smeared onto a piece of cloth with a pinned on note giving its name. It was then laid on top of the kitchen cabinet to dry and be stored for the next year. There were pepper and cabbage plants as well. The pepper seeds were saved too.

The garden had to have long furrows. They were carefully measured, using two stakes with strings tied to each. The furrows were measured to be just the length of a yard stick apart. The furrow was dug following the string as it stretched from one stake to the other.

The onion sets were planted first with each being just six inches apart, realizing that the onions, radishes, and leaf lettuce would be used up early and would make room for a late crop of corn. Then the lettuce was sown in short rows, with peas finishing out the rows (see recipes for wilted lettuce and creamed peas and potatoes).

One small space was set aside for parsnips. They were sown very carefully, covered with a small amount of soil and carefully marked, since only a few of the seeds germinated. Like carrots and beets, they would need to be thinned.

A few weeks later, when frost was not a threat, we went back to put in the plants and finish sowing the seeds. Each tomato plant was placed into a deep hole that had been filled with rotted cow manure. The lower leaves were taken off and nothing but the top of the plant remained above the ground. Sometimes, they looked like a miniature tree on a little mound.

These were planted about two feet apart, giving them plenty of room to grow. Stakes were driven firmly by each plant which would be tied with strips of cloth to the stake as it grew. An old tub was brought to the edge of the garden and filled with fresh cow manure and water ("manure tea"). Every few days it was stirred, and some was poured around the new plants.

The peppers and cabbage plants followed in the next rows. Normally, like kinds of vegetables were planted in pairs of rows to allow for better pollination.

The bean planting was, or at least seemed to be, the most important. They took center garden space and would be expected to produce at least one bushel per tepee (four plants, two from each row that had been staked and tied together at the top to form a tepee shape). Momma also declared that 100 quarts of beans were needed to get the family through to the next season. These pole beans were planted just about two feet apart, four to five beans per hill, in two rows clear across the garden. Even numbered rows were needed in order that the tepees could be built. A special trip to the thicket had to be made to acquire the long stakes for the tepees.

Corn was planted in hills (five or six grains per hill) about eighteen inches apart and located at the lower part of the garden. Because of yielding time, rows were planted some two weeks apart so that we had corn until late summer.

The cucumbers were planted in mounds about four feet apart. A dozen seeds were pushed into the soft dirt with a finger. The vines had room to spread out over the patch.



Photo courtesy of the Upshur County
Historical Society

Pumpkins were planted in the same manner, but on the opposite end of the garden, for it was believed that the cucumbers and pumpkins might cross-pollinate and ruin the both of them.

Every vegetable seemed to have its own patch (the bean patch, the corn patch), and maybe that is where the patchwork quilt gets its name, a patch of this and a patch of that. I don't know, but the ritual of planting time holds a special memory for those who have learned the art of gardening from a parent.

By the way, the potato patch was always away from the rest of the garden. If twenty-five pounds of seed potatoes were planted, the farmer might expect at least six times that amount of harvest. Potatoes were planted as early in the spring as could be allowed. For some folks, the sign of the dark of the moon was the right time while others swore to the planting on Good Friday.

Author's Note: Let it be known that every family has its own customs and practices regarding the garden. Arguments and "right-out squabbles" have arisen because of differing opinions about gardening.

Wilted Lettuce

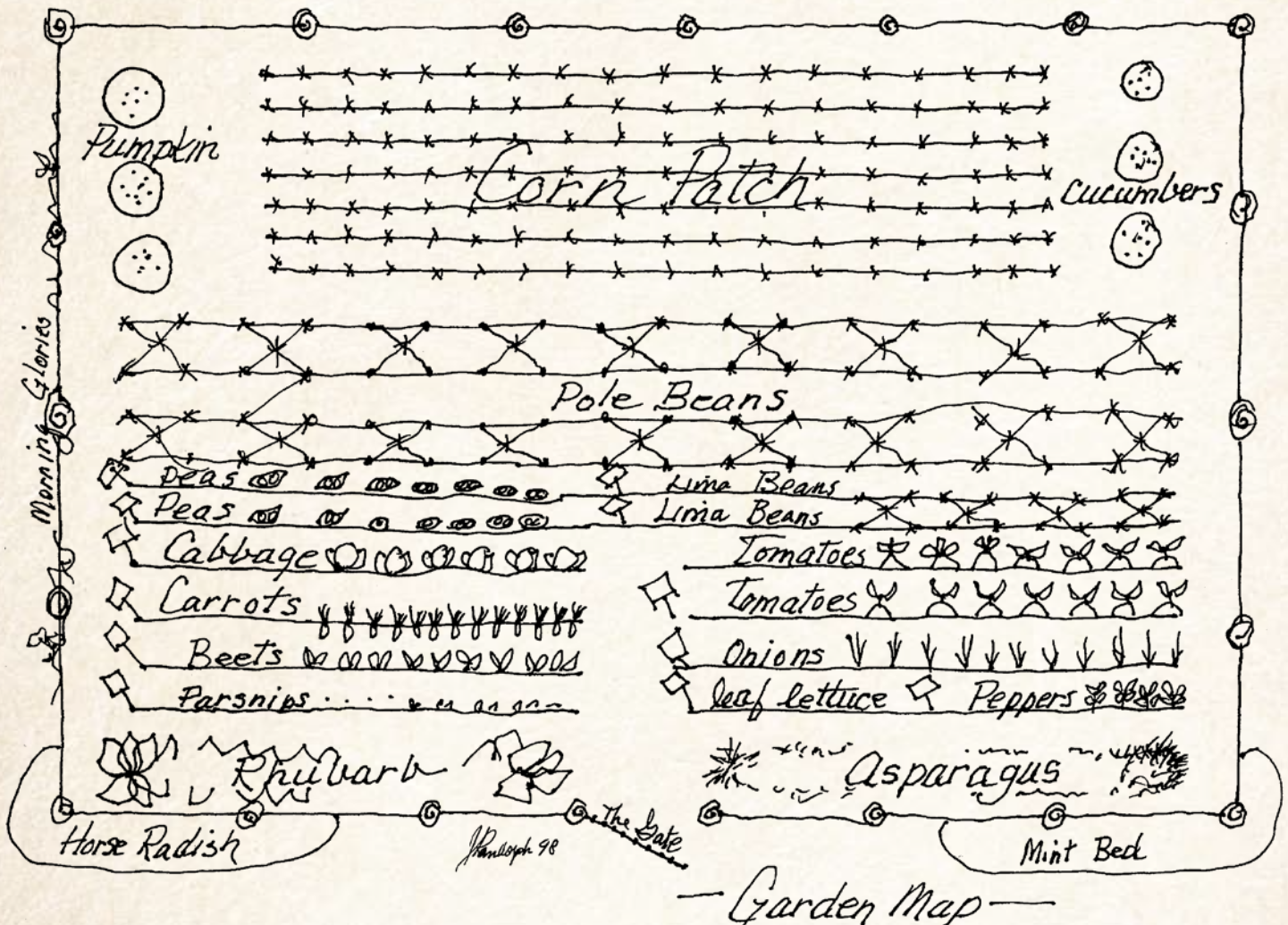
Chop up bacon and fry very crisp. Add 1/3rd cup vinegar and 2 tablespoons of sugar to the skillet. Pour this heated mixture over freshly-picked leaf lettuce and chopped green onion. Salt and pepper to taste and serve immediately.

— Jacqueline G. Goodwin, *Marshville Homemaker's Recipe Collection*, 122)

Creamed Peas and New Potatoes

Clean a quart of fresh peas and cook with small, new potatoes that have just been "graveled" out of the patch. When they are just about done, add a white sauce made of 1/4th cup of flour mixed with one cup of sweet thin cream (the white sauce can be extended by adding more liquid). Salt and pepper to taste. Serve with homemade biscuits and lots of fresh cow butter.

— Traditional Recipe



Special thanks to Dr. Eric Waggoner, Executive Director of the West Virginia Humanities Council for granting permission to reprint this article from "In the Mountain State, a West Virginia Folklore and Cultural Studies Curriculum" by Judy P. Byers, John H. Randolph, and Noel W. Tenney. Published by the West Virginia Humanities Council, Charleston, WV. Copyright ©1999.



Grandma's Recipe Box

H O M E C O O K I N ' A T I T ' S B E S T

We seek to honor the heart and soul of Grandma's cooking and preserve the memories that make her recipes truly irreplaceable. May this mix of down-home farm recipes remind you of soul-warming Sundays at Grandma's house. Would you like to share your favorite recipe with the rest of West Virginia? Please email them to ronw@wvfarm.org.

Beef Stew

1 lb. cubed beef stew meat
All-purpose flour
Shortening or bacon grease
Water
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
½ - 1 onion, finely diced
¼ tsp. paprika
½ tsp. thyme

½ tsp. rosemary
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 bay leaves
2 tsp. sugar
1 qt. tomato juice
½ to 1 stalk celery, cut into very small pieces
3-4 carrots, peeled & cut in 1-inch pieces
3-4 potatoes, peeled and cubed



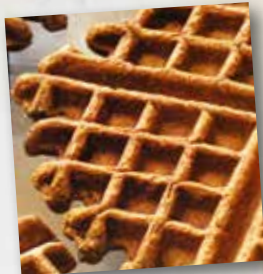
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
½ c. cold water

Melt grease or shortening in a large stock pot. Dredge beef in flour, and then add beef to stock pot, and brown beef on all sides. Cover with water, then add diced onion, spices, bay leaves, and Worcestershire sauce. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 1 hour. Add more water, as needed. Add tomato juice and sugar then cook for another ½ hour. Add celery, carrots, and potatoes, and cook for another 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove bay leaves. Dissolve cornstarch in ½ c. cold water, and stir into stew. Cover and simmer gently for a few more minutes until stew is slightly thickened.

— Patty Sayre, Upshur County

Gingerbread Waffles or Pancakes

2 cups flour
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
¼ c sugar (little more)
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground ginger



Approx. ⅓ c. vegetable oil for waffles
and approx. ½ c. vegetable oil for pancakes

Little over ½ c. molasses

2 eggs

1 ½ c buttermilk (approximately)

Measure dry ingredients into a bowl and mix. Add the remaining ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix, but do not over mix. Proceed with making waffles in a waffle iron or pancakes on a griddle.

— Steve Butler, Upshur County

Ham Cheese and Broccoli Quiche

1 cup ham, diced
2 ribs celery, chopped
¼ onion, chopped
½ sweet pepper, chopped
1 cup broccoli, fresh, chopped into tiny florets
4 eggs, whisked
¼ cup heavy whipping cream
1 teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
1 pie shell



1. Preheat oven to pie shell recommended heat setting (375 degrees F, usually). Bake the pie shell according to the box directions for a pre baked pie shell. After baking is complete remove pie shell from oven and turn heat to 350 degrees F.

2. Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine the ham, celery, onion, pepper, & broccoli.

3. In another bowl, combine the eggs, cream, thyme, salt, pepper, and garlic powder.

4. Pour the egg mixture into the ham mixture and mix well. Add HALF the cheese and fold it into the mixture as well. Pour into the baked pie shell. Sprinkle the top with the remaining 1 cup of shredded cheese.

5. Bake for approximately 25-30 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the eggs are set. You can serve this warm or at room temperature but refrigerate any unused portions.

— Patty Sayre, Upshur County

COME SIT A SPELL

Monthly Puzzles with a Few Words of Country Wisdom Tossed in fer Good Measure!

Theme: Shakespeare

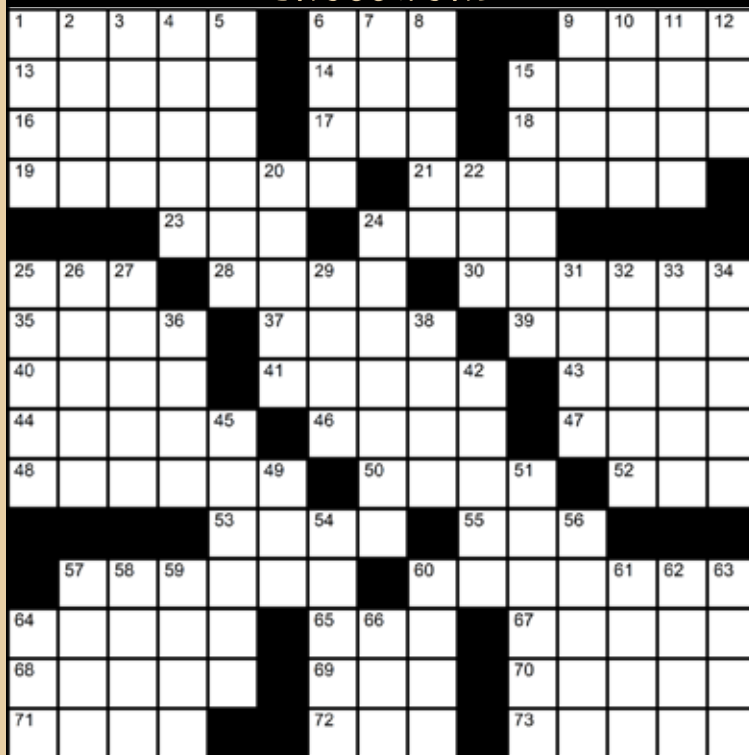
ACROSS

1. Type of help center
6. Fake tooth
9. What geysers do
13. Lagoon wall
14. Acronym, in brief
15. Syrup producer
16. Papal court
17. It often comes with Aloha!
18. External
19. *Richard III: "A horse! A horse! My ____ for a horse!"
21. *Romeo and Juliet: "Parting is such sweet ____"
23. Animal's nose
24. Fail to mention
25. Capone's family
28. *Hamlet: "O, this is the poison of ____ grief"
30. Soap froth
35. Iris holder
37. "He ____, She Said"
39. ____ Apso
40. Cheap form of payment?
41. Bert's roommate
43. Not in favor
44. Hipbone-related
46. The Destroyer, in Hinduism
47. Thomas the Engine's warning
48. "Heart of Darkness" author
50. Brewer's kiln
52. Beer choice
53. Not a verb
55. Comic cry
57. *The Tempest: "We are such stuff as ____ are made on"
60. *As You Like It: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely ____"
64. Primatologist's concern, for short
65. "This land is your land"?
67. *Macbeth: "Our ____ master's murder'd!"
68. Scoundrel
69. Hi ____ monitor
70. Wombs
71. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
72. Teacher's favorite
73. Got ready for a close up

DOWN

1. Nordstrom's outlet
2. Purse for the red carpet
3. Cape on Tierra del Fuego
4. Set straight
5. Like a knife
6. Comes before a storm?
7. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
8. Spectrum maker
9. Wild ox of India
10. Plotting (2 words)
11. Multitude
12. Having Everything Revealed, singer and songwriter
15. *Hamlet: "When we have shuffled off this ____ coil"
20. Corpulent
22. Tin Woodman's "medicine"
24. "Two cents"?
25. *Twelfth Night: "If ____ be the food of love, play on"
26. Convex molding
27. Nigeria's western neighbor
29. Listening devices
31. *Hamlet: "To be, or not to be: ____ is the question"
32. Capital of Vietnam
33. Bar by estoppel
34. Indian restaurant condiment
36. Petri dish filler
38. Prima donna
42. Artist's tripod
45. High tea sandwich
49. P rignon's honorific
51. Destroy a document (2 words)
54. Seize a throne
56. City in Japan
57. Type of sailing vessel
58. Capital of Latvia
59. Outback birds
60. "Blast from the ____"
61. "The ____ of Tammy Faye," movie
62. Uncommon
63. Went down slippery slope
64. Cathode-ray tube
66. *Merchant of Venice: "But love is blind, and lovers cannot ____"

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CoW CUD...

MORE PLANTING SEASON FOLKLORE:

PLANT CABBAGE SEEDS WHILE THE SIGN IS IN THE HEAD.

PLANT BEETS WHILE THE SIGN IS IN THE HEART.

PLANT LATE CUCUMBERS WHEN THE SIGN IS IN THE TWINS.

PLANT CORN WHEN THE SIGN IS IN THE SCALE, AND THE EARS WILL BE HEAVY.

SET OUT ONIONS IN THE OLD OF THE MOON, AND THEY WILL GROW DOWN; IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON, AND THEY WILL GROW OUT OF THE GROUND.

BEANS PLANTED IN THE NEW MOON WILL CLIMB UP THE CORN, BUT IF PLANTED IN THE OLD OF THE MOON, THEY WILL NOT CLIMB.

PLANT CORN IN THE DARK OF THE MOON, SO THE EARS WILL BE LOW AND HEAVY.

WHAT GROWS ABOVE THE GROUND SHOULD BE PLANTED IN THE NEW OF THE MOON; BELOW, IN THE OLD OF THE MOON.

— FROM *WITCHES, GHOSTS AND SIGNS*, BY PATRICK W. GAINER, MORGANTOWN, WV, SENECA BOOKS, 1975.



March, 2024 Solution



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