

West Virginia

Farm Bureau News

July 2023





West Virginia Farm Bureau News

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the Mountain State*

July 2023

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SAVE THE DATES



104th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU

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Around the Dome

Dwayne O'Dell, WVFB Director of Government Relations



I hope your summer is going well. As of mid-June, it has certainly been cooler and drier than normal. Please consider the following agricultural and legislative issues.

United States House Republicans recently proposed the American Families & Jobs Act that would include the following: (1) temporarily extend certain business provisions from the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act (TCJA), such as 100 percent expensing for investment in equipment; (2) create a bonus standard deduction for individuals through 2025; and (3) reduce many of the “green energy” provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Based on the makeup of the United States Senate, it is unlikely this legislation will become law.

Many states, including West Virginia, are experiencing revenue growth. Our state's excess revenue over the projected budget is expected to be nearly \$2 billion. Since 2021, 24 states have cut individual tax rates, and 13 states have cut corporate income tax rates. Overall, West Virginia's tax structure places our state 20th among all the states.

A ballot proposal has been made to outlaw slaughter facilities in the county and city of Denver, Colorado. If passed, the law would prevent the construction, maintenance, and use of slaughter houses in the city. Supporters of the law say the facilities are unsightly and are places of high numbers of workforce injuries, as well as being part of the cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Supporters also believe plant-based foods are more protective of the environment and eliminate animal cruelty. This law would have an immediate effect, as Superior Farms, the largest lamb processor in the state, is located in Denver. This is the second major proposal in Colorado, as the Pause Act (Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation) was taken to the Colorado State Supreme Court.

U.S. hamburger prices averaged \$4.96 per pound in late May. This is the highest price on record, up 17 cents from last year. The retail beef composite price was \$7.02, up 14 cents from the previous month. U.S. beef exports in April were down 12

percent year over year. So far in 2023, South Korea is the top importer of U.S. beef. U.S. exports were up significantly to Hong Kong, but down to China, Japan, and Canada.

In mid-June, over 50 percent of corn and soybean producing areas in the United States was in some form of drought. Poor export sales of corn, wheat, and soybeans have occurred but are expected to increase soon. Feeder cattle and fed cattle continue to see very strong prices.

Governors Kim Reynolds of Iowa and Tim Pille of Nebraska are leading an 11-state letter to congressional leaders asking them to support the Exposing Agricultural Trade Suppression Act. The bill would uphold the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution to push back against the recent Supreme Court decision to uphold Proposition 12. Many believe the Prop 12 decision will add approximately 20 percent to production costs for hogs, and the principles laid out in Prop 12 will be expanded to poultry and beef products.

Finally, I am reminded of Benjamin Franklin's quotes on life. He said, “Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.” He also stated, “When you're finished changing, you're finished.”

Have a great day!





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The Zipline

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation



Working with Companies to Deliver Right to Repair Solutions

Farmers are resourceful—sometimes by nature, but more often, by necessity. I was reminded of that one day when I decided to “clean up” my dad’s scrap pile on the farm. You see, my dad, like most farmers, was saving those spare parts to save time and money—both of which are in short supply on the farm. Sure enough, I threw out a part he needed. Dad wasn’t happy, and I learned a valuable lesson. Sometimes you need to fix things yourself or rely on a handy neighbor to help. That’s why when Farm Bureau members called on American Farm Bureau to work with ag equipment companies on right to repair, we made it a top priority to find a path forward.

Advocacy is at the heart of our work at Farm Bureau. From town hall meetings to hearings on Capitol Hill, advocacy at every level, from local to federal government, is critical to strengthening agriculture and protecting our safe, sustainable food supply. But collaboration across the food and agriculture supply chain can be just as important. In fact, sometimes opting for a private sector solution over a legislative fix is preferred. That was the exact sentiment expressed by our members when they charged us with outreach to equipment manufacturers. Market-based solutions are effective and much less likely to get bogged down in politics and red tape. It’s about sitting down at the table and sorting things out.

Not long after our grassroots members called on American Farm Bureau to work with ag equipment companies to find a solution on right to repair, we secured our first memorandum of understanding. We kicked off the year signing that MOU with John Deere at our annual convention in San Juan. And we didn’t stop there. I said back in January that I hoped the MOU with **John Deere** would be the first of many—and sure enough, more have followed. Thanks to the hard work of your team at American Farm Bureau, in the subsequent five

months we also signed right to repair MOUs with **Case IH** and **New Holland, Kubota, and AGCO.**


Last week we were pleased to announce yet another MOU – with **CLAAS**. A year ago, I never would have imagined that by midyear we would have signed MOUs covering approximately three quarters of the ag machinery sold in the U.S.















Thanks to these agreements, farmers across the country now have the freedom and flexibility to repair their own equipment or work with a local mechanic. In rural communities, it can be challenging and costly to travel for hours to the nearest approved mechanic or dealer when expensive farm machinery breaks down. When your family, your neighbors and your country are counting on you to keep the farm running and the food supply coming, you don’t always have extra hours to spare.

At Farm Bureau, we are proud of the agreements we have achieved with these ag equipment companies, and we will continue working with other manufacturers as well to ensure all farmers have access to the tools necessary to keep their equipment running, and to keep food on the table for families across America.

Vincent “Zippy” Duvall, a poultry, cattle, and hay producer from Greene County, Georgia, is the 12th president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.





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It's Time To Fertilize



Berry Mix 4-2-4

Fertilize strawberries and brambles after the last harvest with Berry Mix 4-2-4 one time between July-September before you mulch the plants. The fertilizer will be more readily available to the plant roots if allowed to be absorbed directly into the soil while protected by the mulch. For strawberries, after harvest apply 8-10 lbs per 100 row ft. For brambles, apply 6 lbs per 100 row ft.

Holly Care 4-6-4

For blueberries especially, between July-September we recommend a one time application of Holly Care 4-6-4 to provide a high phosphorus fertilizer with sulfur to give plenty of time for the roots to absorb them. Apply 10 lbs. per 100 row foot. Can also be used on hollies, dogwoods, gardenias, marigolds, rhododendrons, azaleas, ferns, hydrangeas and all other acid loving plants.

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County Corner *News from the Fifty-Five*

Berkeley County

Membership Recruitment

Dillon Farm Museum held its annual Spring Festival on June 3rd and 4th, and Berkeley County Farm Bureau was on hand to do some membership recruitment. In addition, we shared our love and knowledge of the organization and our agriculture roots, as well as sharing our love for restoring chair seats.

We had great interest in hearing about Farm Bureau, as well as chair seat repairs!

On Sunday, we also brought the family impromptu jam session and upright bass. Blacksmith Mike Shade joined us in a jam session that entertained the passing crowd.

We are already working on plans for next year! Meanwhile, we are making plans for the fall festival.



Winners of the free WVFB membership and cutting board



Berkeley Co. Farm Bureau representatives at the Dillon Farm Museum Spring weekend. Demo of chair caning, rush and splint done by Melissa Winstead, Barbara Wright, and Heather Wright

Lewis County

Scholarship Winner

Madison Hall, a recent graduate of Lewis County High School, has been awarded Lewis County Farm Bureau's educational scholarship for 2023. Madison will be attending West Virginia University this fall where she will major in Animal Nutrition and Sciences, with a minor in Biology. After graduating from West Virginia University she plans to attend an out of state university to become a veterinarian. Once she becomes a veterinarian, Madison hopes to return to West Virginia and open her own practice.

Madison has been a member of FFA all four years of high school. For the 2022-2023 school year she served as vice president. She is a 4-H member and in 2020 had the grand champion poultry exhibit.

She was also a member of the National Honor

Society and served as secretary for the Future Business Leaders of America at Lewis County High School. Madison is currently a member of the Central WV Riding Club.

Community activities include assisting the Weston Volunteer Fire Department with various fundraisers and is a candidate for the 2023 Flame Queen.

She is the daughter of Travis and Mindy Hall of Weston.



Madison Hall



Sunday Jam Session at the Dillon Farm Museum

Marshall County

Ice Cream Social

The Marshall County Farm Bureau Membership Committee held their annual Ice Cream Social on June 26 in recognition of Dairy Month. This event was offered free to the public and featured live entertainment on the courthouse lawn in Moundsville, West Virginia.



Approximately 60 people turned out for the annual ice cream social.

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Mercer County

Membership Drive

The Mercer County Farm Bureau Membership Committee did a membership drive recently by obtaining over 300 farmers listed on the county farm exemption list at the courthouse. Membership Chairman Dennis Richmond composed letters and Farm Bureau information to send to the prospective members. Several committee members met to stuff envelopes and prepare to mail. We are awaiting to see results.

Membership Chairman Dennis Richmond prepared a presentation and gave it to the Mercer County Bee Keepers Association, inviting them to become members and partner with the Farm Bureau to promote honey production and other agricultural interests together. Plans include possible scholarships to beginning bee keepers especially youth programs.



Mercer Co. Membership Committee stuffing envelopes



Dennis Richmond

Wayne County

Ag is Growing!

I wanted to share some great news for Wayne County. As Agriculture Mentor for Wayne County Schools, we are so proud to have FFA in all three of our high schools.

We now have some ag clubs in our middle schools with Wayne Middle being the largest with over half of the schools population. Mrs. Stephens has The Chicken Tenders! They started out with a few chickens to tend!

The interest has been so great that we managed to raise half and the board of education funded the other half to build the club a 16x24 greenhouse.

Our elementary schools are getting their share of ag too. We now have a 28x48 high tunnel at Prichard Elementary, along with other schools learning some ag and where their food comes from.

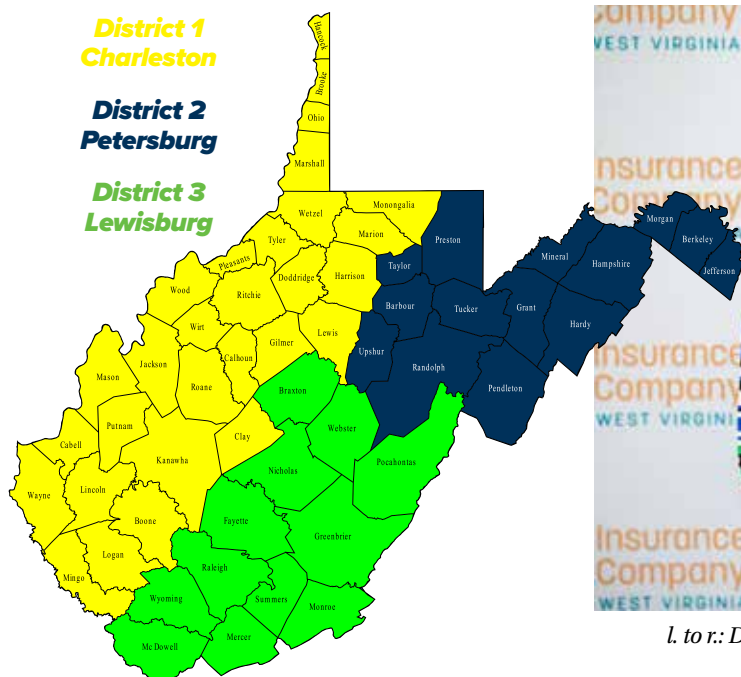
As agriculture mentor it's not what I have accomplished, but it's what we as a whole, great teachers and leadership from the superintendent, school board members, principals, and faculty have done. We are very proud to have groups of students at our monthly Farm Bureau meetings to know what's going on and participate in competitions, letting members judge.

Agriculture is Growing in Wayne County!



FB Insurance Update

District Managers Named



l. to r.: District 1 Manager Beth Baldwin, District 2 Manager Karen Malick, and Region 3 Manager Brian Stewart

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Growing Young

Michelle Wilfong, Young Farmer and Rancher Chair



West Virginia Farm Bureau conducts three competitive events during the West Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November to showcase the work of young farmers & ranchers from age 18-35. WVFB will provide the winners with \$500.00 to travel to American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention in January, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah to compete at the national level.

Events:

Achievement Award

The Achievement Award recognizes young farmers & ranchers who have excelled in their farm or ranch and have honed their leadership abilities to superiority. Participants are involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks. Judges evaluate competitor's excellence in management, growth and scope of their enterprise and self-initiative that has been displayed throughout the farm or ranch.

Excellence in Agriculture

The Excellence in Agriculture Award spotlights young Farm Bureau members who are agricultural enthusiasts but have not earned a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in the past three years. Competitors are evaluated on their understanding of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievement, and their ability to communicate their agricultural story.

Discussion Meet

The American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet competitive event simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

Competitors Must:

- Submit a completed application (*page 13*) to the WVFB office before September 1, 2023
- Be an active farmer Farm Bureau member
- Be between the ages of 18-35. Individuals or married couples can compete if they have not reached their 36th birthday by January 31st after the AFBF Annual Competition
- Must not have already competed at the national level.

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West Virginia Farm Bureau

YF&R Competitive Events

Nomination Form

Nominations of young farmers can be submitted by any Farm Bureau member. All nominated candidates will be contacted by WVFB and notified of their next steps in the process.

Date: _____

Nominee Name: _____

County: _____

Event

☐

Achievement Award

☐

Excellence in Agriculture

(Please mark with X)

☐

Discussion Meet

Reasons for nomination:

Address/Contact Information for Nominee:

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Nominator Information:

Nominator Name: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Nominations must be submitted by September 1, 2023 to:
West Virginia Farm Bureau, Attn: Steve Butler, 62 Farm Bureau Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Agricult(her)ist For a Day!

On June 9th, YF&R committee members Lacen Forbes and Mariah Hatton spent the Day with Miss WV Elizabeth Lynch and other agriculturists at WVU's Research Farm. This event was hosted by Libera, Inc./ Lila Bear Explore(her) Club and the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

Libera, Inc. has been empowering women and youth in West Virginia to find freedom since 2015. They help to educate, employ, and empower at-risk youth in WV — especially youth transitioning out of foster care. All profits from this social enterprise are invested back into Libera's nonprofit programs for mentoring, training, and elevating opportunities for foster youth and other at-risk youth across WV.

If you are interested in sponsoring their farming & agriculture boxes for WV school students, please visit their Corporate Sponsorship page at <https://www.lilabearexplorherclub.com/sponsor>



WV EXTENSION

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NOV. 17-18, 2023

Women in Agriculture Conference

Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center – Davis, West Virginia

2023 JULY 4TH COOKOUT SURVEY RESULTS

The July 4th cookout survey is part of the Farm Bureau marketbasket series, which also includes the popular annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey of common food staples Americans use to prepare meals at home.

Volunteer shoppers across the country, including Farm Bureau members and others, collected data from 240 different stores in every state and Puerto Rico.



THE TAKE-AWAYS

- Overall, the price of the 12-item July 4th Cookout basket for 10 people is \$67.73, down three percent, but approximately 14% higher than prices were just two years ago.
- Although historically high, the cost of the cookout breaks down to less than \$7 per person. When put in a global context, food remains more affordable in the U.S. than in many other countries.
- Last year set a record high since AFBF began the survey in 2013 and 2023 comes in as the second highest cost.
- The survey showed year-to-year price increases in hamburger buns (+17%) and potato salad (5%).
- The cost of beef rose 4% due in large part to drought conditions that have driven up the cost of feed and reduced the number of cattle.
- The price of chicken breasts decreased after reaching record highs last year and the price of lemonade dropped due to the drop in the cost of lemons.
- The federal government's broader Consumer Price Index report for food at home shows an overall increase of 5.8% compared to a year ago. Farm Bureau's marketbasket survey examines only the foods commonly associated with summer cookouts.
- Farmers are price takers, not price makers as the farmers' share of the retail food dollar is just 14%.
- Regional data shows that prices are the highest in the western states at \$74.09 for all basket items and the least expensive in the northeast at \$64.73.

RAISED IN A BARN

by Jessica Hoover, YF&R Committee Member

I was born and raised on my family farm, and am lucky enough to still farm here. Most of my earliest memories involve cattle. My family raised beef cattle, and hay and corn for their own use, long before I was born. My parents raised and showed club calves, and once we were old enough, we did too. This was the segment of the cattle industry that I really grew up in. As we got older, we moved away from crossbred cattle and shifted our focus



My mother, Missy Hoover, and sister Meghan Hoover Hedrick with our string of feeder calves at WV Livestock Roundup (c. 1994).

from club calves to registered Angus, Hereford, and Simmental breeding cattle, and we now sport a mix of registered and crossbred cattle. My siblings and I showed cattle at the county, state, and regional levels, and eventually market hogs, lambs, and goats as well.

I learned so many things by growing up this way that I'm thankful for every day. I had an introduction to statistics and probabilities in elementary school because of EPDs. I learned early in life that semen isn't actually a bad word, especially when it comes from a bull as cool as some of those guys are. You learn early what traits to select for that do well inside the show ring, but also create useful cattle that function well when their show career is over. Traits such as structural soundness, muscling, fleshing ability, and

femininity in females and masculinity in males, are all sought after on both sides of the cattle world.

You learn that success doesn't come without hard work, how to be responsible for a living thing other than yourself, and how to win, and lose, humbly. These are all important life lessons that kids can carry over into whatever career field they choose, even if it isn't related to agriculture.



My sister Meghan and I with Reserve Champion Heifer at the 2003 Tri-County Fair.

One of the hardest lessons I've learned is to not compare myself to others, because my idea of success is often not the same as others. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." It is super easy to do when competing in the show ring, because you're judged compared to your competition, and then placed first through last from best to worst based on the judge of the day's opinion. Life isn't always that black and white, though. Without someone telling you that you're at this place or that place, you start to lose sight of what success is to you and eventually convince yourself you're failing if you aren't measuring up to those around you, even if you are meeting and working towards the goals you've set for yourself.

When we make decisions about our breeding program, our ultimate goal is to pair cows



My father, Larry Hoover, and sister Meghan with one of our feeder calves at the WV Livestock Roundup (c. 1996).

with bulls that would result in calves with the phenotypic design and genetic makeup that we want, and still be marketable, useful cattle. We've had some successes, and, of course, some failures with this, and are hopeful that we will continue to be successful in the future. Even with this in mind, it can be difficult to sit in a room with people who

are operating on a much larger scale, working towards different goals than ours, who begin to diminish what we're doing. I've seen this as a common trend, especially for young farmers who are just starting out. It's common to hear someone explain their operation

as "only x number of acres" or "just x number of head", essentially diminishing what they're doing and the successes they have achieved.

Define what success looks like for you, and work towards that goal. What works for one person, might not work for others. Not only should we strive to learn from the experiences and successes of other people, but we should also tailor that knowledge to be most useful for us. Most importantly, don't diminish your own successes or convince yourself you that don't deserve a seat at the table, because everyone does!



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Some of our current pure-bred Herefords before going to grass in the spring.

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West Virginia DAIRY CATTLE SHOW

August 12-15, 2023
WVU Jackson's Mill

This year will mark the 81st year of the West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show and Festival! The Dairy Show, held at WVU Jackson's Mill each August, brings together 4-H, FFA, and open exhibitors from throughout the state and is the only state-wide dairy show made up exclusively of West Virginia cattle and exhibitors.

In addition to the cattle breed shows, there are social events and numerous youth activities including the state 4-H and FFA dairy judging contest, showmanship classes, dairy bowl, pretty cow contest, skillathon, and more!

For new exhibitors, the Dairy Show is an incredible learning opportunity in a family-friendly environment where experienced exhibitors and cattle breeders are willing to share tips and help new exhibitors learn how to show. And for experienced exhibitors, the Dairy Show is an opportunity to compete against West Virginia's top showmanship winners and champion cattle.

Whether you're a first-time exhibitor or have been coming to the Dairy Show for years, take advantage of all that the Show has to offer and make plans now to join us in August. WVU Jackson's Mill is located on 160 Jackson Mill Road, Weston, WV.



Serving for the past year as West Virginia Dairy Princess has been Helen McCarty from Mineral County. Princess Helen is the daughter of Dawn and Brent Fuller.

The West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show is co-sponsored by the West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show, Inc., the WVU Extension Service, the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design, and the WV Department of Agriculture.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th

8:00 a.m. Begin receiving cattle (Show Office opens at 11:00 a.m.)
 6:00 p.m. Dairy Bowl
 7:30 p.m. Fitting Clinic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th

9:00 a.m. State 4-H & FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contest
 3:00 p.m. Dairy Judging results and awards
 5:30 p.m. Picnic - Free to all
 7:00 p.m. Youth Showmanship Contest, FFA Dairy Handler's Career Development Class, and Adult Showmanship

MONDAY, AUGUST 14th

10:00 a.m. Youth & Open Heifer Show
 Supreme Junior Champion Selection
 12:00 Noon Silent Auction organized by the Dairy Princess Committee
 Dairy Skillathon
 4:00 p.m. Pretty Cow Contest and Ice Cream Social sponsored by United Dairy
 6:30 p.m. Barnyard Olympics

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th


9:00 a.m. Youth & Open Cattle Show
 West Virginia Exhibitor's Herd Award
 West Virginia Breeder's Herd Award
 Supreme Senior Champion Selection
 1:45 p.m. Ice Cream Floats sponsored by the Dairy Princess Committee
 6:30 p.m. Parade of Champions and WV Dairy Princess Coronation



WEST VIRGINIA SCHOLAR WINNERS



Each year WVFB helps sponsor and participates in the selection of the West Virginia Scholar scholarship winners. Pictured here are Jim Kaufman, President and CEO of WV Hospital Assoc.; Kydall Perry of Nitro, 1st Runner-up; Ronald Greer of Ripley, 2nd Runner-up; Kaycee McCoy of Ripley, Winner; Hoppy Kercheval, WV Metro News; and Steve Butler, WVFB Administrator.



(YOU)

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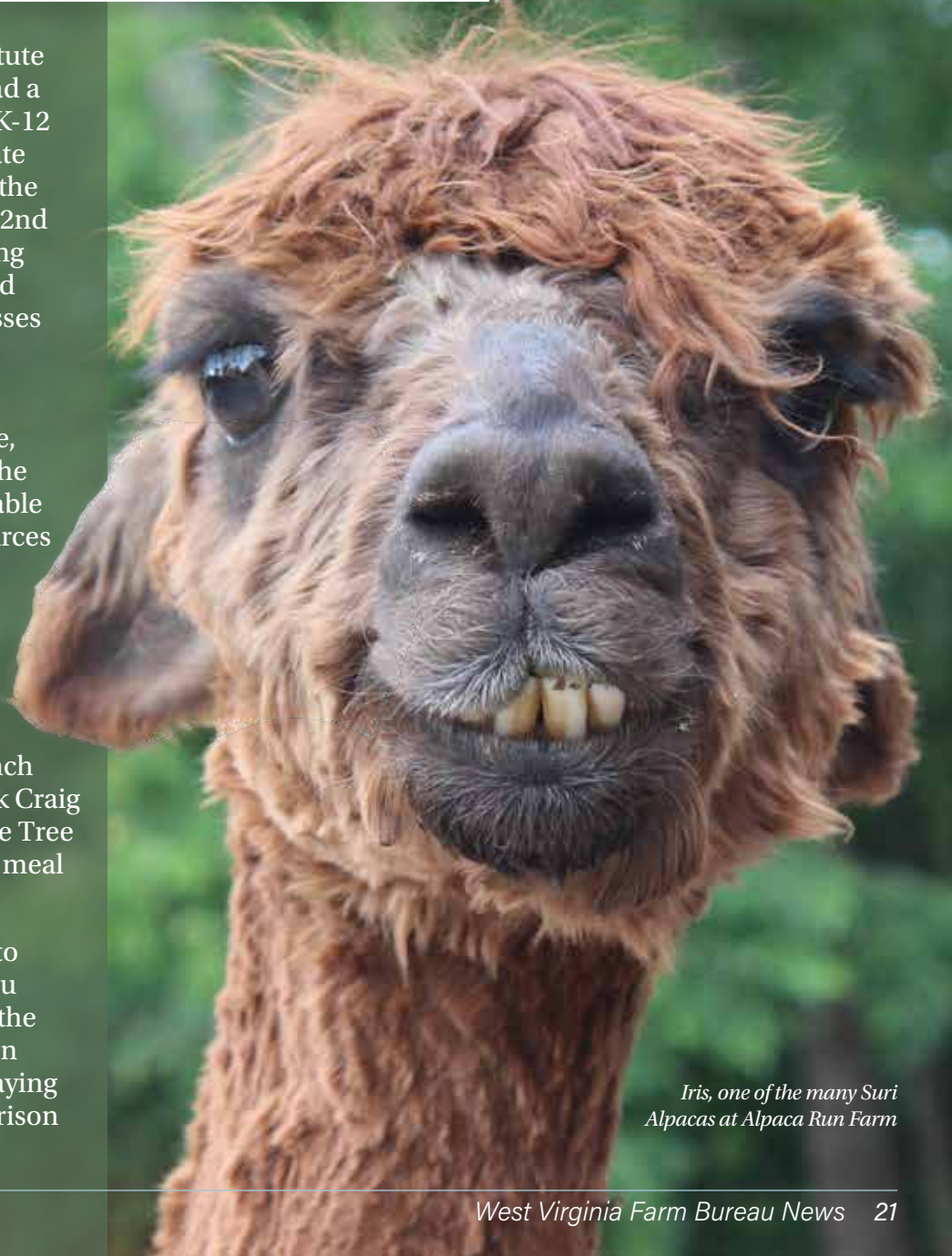
SUMMER AG INSTITUTE



The 2023 Summer Ag Institute was a great success! We had a total of 15 teachers from PK-12 attend from around the state of West Virginia. Dates for the event were June 21st and 22nd in Wood County, and during the conference, 8 farms and agricultural-based businesses were toured.

Teachers were provided a ton of hands-on experience, enjoyed meals fresh from the farms, learned about available agricultural teaching resources and left with lessons, ag mags and books to use in their own classrooms. A special "Thank You" to Bob and Joy Spencer from Bearsville Bees for providing Wednesday's lunch for everyone. We also thank Craig and Candice Bandy of Wine Tree Vineyard for preparing the meal for lunch on Thursday.

Special thanks also go out to Wetzel County Farm Bureau for donating \$200 towards the SAI lunches and to Harrison County Farm Bureau for paying the registration fees of Harrison County Teachers.



Iris, one of the many Suri Alpacas at Alpaca Run Farm

Wednesday Itinerary

Indoor Presentations

Summer Ag Institute started its morning off with a welcome from Michelle Bailey, Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab Coordinator, and Haley N. Rosson, Assistant Professor/4-H and Youth Development Extension Specialist for West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture Natural Resources and Design. Haley was followed by Ms. Shannon Anderson who was presented the “Book of the Year” award by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture for “I LOVE Strawberries.” The award was presented at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 104th Convention.



*l. to r.: Haley Rosson,
Shannon Anderson
and Ivy Ward*



Ms. Ivy Ward then passed on a lot of information and teaching resources that are currently available on the Farm Credit Knowledge Center.



After the indoor presentations, the group was treated to a lunch at the Blennerhassett Fire Department. During the lunch, attendees were educated on the basics of honeybees and beekeeping by Shanda King, State Apiarist. Several members of a local beekeeping club also spoke on the importance of continued education and collaboration through engagement with beekeeping associations and clubs.

Bob and Joy Spencer from **Bearsville Bees** then took us on a tour of their facility. Not only did they demonstrate the on-site construction of a bee-box, but they helped attendees suit-up and see the inside of a bee hive—up close and personal!



*Shanda King, Stet Apiarist/Apiary Inspector,
WV Department of Agriculture*



Bob Spencer

The afternoon finished up with tours of both **Mister Bee** and **Holl's Handcrafted Swiss Chocolates**. MaryAnne Ketelsen, current president and owner of Mister Bee, gave a brief history of the company and then took everyone on a rare tour of the potato chip factory. At the conclusion, MaryAnne gave the Mobile Ag Lab a very generous \$5,000 donation.

Dominique Holl, current owner of Holl's Chocolate, then gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at West Virginia's very own chocolate factory. His family have been turning out true Swiss chocolate confections in the area since 1986.



Dominique Holl

Thursday Itinerary

Alpaca Run Farm was certainly a favorite of those in attendance. This was likely due to the absolute cuteness of the alpacas and emus as well as the fun-loving nature of our host, Earl Khosrovi. Earl was recently named as a Top 10 Suri Alpaca Producer in the United States.



Earl Khosrovi



Thomas Allman

Next on the itinerary was **T&J Farm Horse Barn**, owned by Thomas Allman. Located at the trail head of the North Bend Rail Trail, they host parties and offer trail rides and horsemanship training.





Cody Ewing

Cody Ewing then offered an interesting and very informative look at sustainable farming at **Oak Springs Farm**. Unlike chickens from factories, their meat birds are processed conventionally and are free of antibiotics and hormones.



Craig Bandy

After a busy morning, appetites were appeased by Craig and Candice Bandy at the **Wine Tree Vineyard**. After the wonderful meal, attendees were led to the top of the mountain to view their beautiful orchard. Their award-winning wines are produced, bottled, and processed on their farm in Vienna where they also offer wine-tasting and wine friendly foods.



The final stop on the tour was **Scots Landscaping**. Madeson Barr treated everyone to a tour of the 11-acre facility which included a garden center, nursery, gift shop featuring all WV and Ohio products, and the newly constructed Sugar Grove which features a bakery, ice cream, and other sweet treats.



Congratulations to Michelle Bailey for the amazing job of organizing this year's Summer Ag Institute. It was a huge hit with all the attendees. They learned about many different types of farming that happen right here in WV. Teachers leave with lots of new ideas to share in their classrooms or utilize in their personal lifestyles.

The farmers this year did an excellent job in sharing their techniques, explaining how they started their business, and sharing how they would like to grow their farms. We certainly appreciate them lending time from their busy schedules.

Michelle has been organizing the Institute for 2 years now, and after having such a great response from this year's group, we cannot wait for SAI 2024! It is already in the planning stages, and will mostly take place in Marshall County, WV.



Michelle Bailey

Michelle has also done a wonderful job with the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab. Since taking the helm, she has obtained several grants and large donations, and there is a waiting list to get the mobile ag lab! We are just learning that she won an award for WVFB from the NAITCO for Innovative Programming. *West Virginia Farm Bureau News* will have more on that in next month's issue.

Growing a State and a Nation...

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

The Given Family Farm in Braxton County, WV

by Douglas Given

Our family farm was established at least as far back as Adam Given. He was born around 1800 and settled in Strange Creek, West Virginia. The farm has been in our family for nearly 200 years. A cousin, Blaine McLaughlin, bought the farm from Arthur Given who was Adam's son. Mr. McLaughlin was the agricultural commissioner of the state of West Virginia from approximately 1930 to 1950 and also the father of Brigadier General Kemp McLaughlin who won four Distinguished Flying Crosses in World War II and then founded the West Virginia Air National Guard after WW2. My uncle, Bessel Given and my dad bought it back from the McLaughlin's. At the time of the article (right), Bessel was serving in the Seabees.

My father, William Henry Given, was the principal and a schoolteacher at Frametown elementary school. He had horned Herefords, then later polled Herefords, and then finished his career with Angus cattle. His Hereford cattle were some of the best in the state as he had acquired breeding stock from Morlunda farms in Greenbrier County near Lewisburg, West Virginia.

William kept farming until he was about 80 years old. He was still working on the farm when he was about 88 years old and fell and broke his hip in two places while Bushhogging. We did not find him until about eight hours after he had had his accident. I asked him how badly he was hurting, and he said he did not hurt, he just wanted something to drink. He was one of the toughest men I ever knew, and he lived to be 97 years old.

Considering that my current profession is serving as a physician in Braxton County, West Virginia, I never expected to be farming. However, our family now has what is probably the largest Bison ranch in the state of West Virginia with 89 head of bison on 450 acres, Mountain State Farm. I believe my father would be proud. It is too bad he never got to see it.

THE BRAXTON CENTRAL Thursday, July 26, 1945

Young Birch Farmer Does Good Job



Above is William Henry Given, young Birch district farmer, and the off horse of a fine team of gray horses that helps him to do a good job on nearly 300 acres of farm and grazing land during the absence of his brother, Bessel, co-owner of the farm, who is serving in Uncle Sam's Navy.

William Henry and Bessel Given, whose 281 acre farm lies in Birch district, have enrolled in the Farming for Better Living program this year for the third consecutive year, and for the third consecutive year William, who is 28 years old and unmarried, is playing a lone hand on the big farm. Bessel is in Uncle Sam's Navy and has served two years in the South Pacific. When the Farming for Better Living reporter visited the farm in June, Bessel was stationed at a California base awaiting reassignment.

With the help of a boy in the neighborhood, William this year put in 10 acres of wheat, 8 acres of corn, 6 acres of soybeans and 2 acres of meadow. He has 1 acre of orchard, from which he expects a few apples this year. He also has about a quarter acre of potatoes for marketing.

On 60 acres of pasture he has 26 cows and calves—12 of the cows are purebred—and a purebred bull, 16 ewes, with 20 lambs, one brood sow, two sholes and a purebred O.I.C. sow. Mr. Given placed second last year in the regional Master Shepherd program and has four entries for the feeder calf show at Jackson's Mill.

Despite the great amount of work to be done, William still finds time to act as a 4-H club leader. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and is signed up for soil conservation. Last year, he won a white ribbon in the county Farming for Better Living competition.

Recipe Possibilities

BEEF. IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.®

Recipe Courtesy of BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association

BEEF ON A BUDGET

With just a few simple ingredients, these budget-friendly meals will taste like a million bucks.

CLASSIC BEEF KABOBS

Cubes of seasoned, tender steak grilled with mushrooms, peppers, and onions on a skewer. A recipe that's perfect for an appetizer, snack, or dinner.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound beef Top Sirloin Steak cut 1-inch thick
- 8 ounces mushrooms
- 1 medium red, yellow, or green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano or 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

COOKING:

Cut beef Top Sirloin Boneless steak into 1-inch pieces. Combine seasoning ingredients in large bowl. Add beef, mushrooms, bell pepper pieces and onion pieces; toss to coat.

Cook's Tip: One pound beef Tenderloin Steak cut 1-inch thick may be used.

Alternately thread beef and vegetable pieces evenly onto eight 12-inch metal skewers, leaving small spaces between pieces.

Cook's Tip: Eight 12-inch bamboo skewers may be substituted for metal skewers. Soak bamboo skewers in water 10 minutes before using; drain.

Place kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill kabobs, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 9 to 11 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning once. Season kabobs with salt, as desired.

Cook's Tip: To broil, place kabobs on rack in broiler pan so surface of beef is 3 to 4 inches from heat. Broil 9 to 12 minutes for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning once.



LEAN MEATBALL SUBS

Lean Ground Beef is formed into meatballs before a quick cook in the oven and a dip in pasta sauce. Enjoy the classic meatballs in a crusty Italian roll for a family-friendly meal!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1/4 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 2 egg whites or 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups pasta healthy or regular pasta sauce
- 4 crusty Italian bread rolls (5 to 6-inches each), split
- 4 tablespoons giardiniera, drained (optional)

COOKING:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Combine Ground Beef, bread crumbs, egg whites, water, salt and pepper in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Shape into twelve 2-inch meatballs. Place on rack in broiler pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake in 400°F oven 18 to 20 minutes.

Cook's Tip: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

Heat pasta sauce according to package directions in medium saucepan. Add hot cooked meatballs to pasta sauce; stir to coat evenly. Divide meatballs and sauce evenly among rolls. Top evenly with giardiniera.

Cook's Tip: Giardiniera is a mixture of vegetables, traditionally peppers, carrots, celery and onions, pickled in a white or red vinegar and oil mixture. It is sold in mild or hot varieties.



COME SIT A SPELL

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

Theme: Independence Day

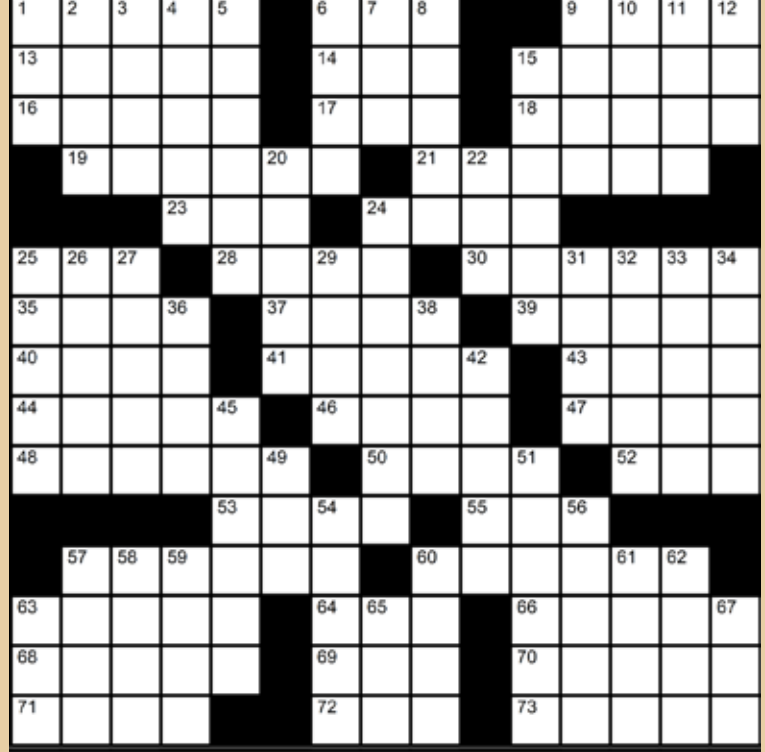
ACROSS

1. Kind of illusion
6. Perched
9. Island near Java
13. Old West pack animal
14. False statement
15. Opposite of atonal
16. Hailing from the East
17. Supply with weapons
18. "___ death do us part"
19. *Frank
21. *Popular celebratory get-together
23. Many, many years
24. Scott Hamilton's "court"
25. Gross National Product
28. Abundant
30. Bantoid language
35. Bakery unit
37. Cutlass maker
39. Two in eighteen
40. Milk's favorite cookie
41. Muslim ruler honorific
43. Hyperbolic sine
44. Iranian money, pl.
46. Nancy Sinatra's boots
47. Fill to satisfaction
48. *Certain Doodle
50. Argo's propellers
52. Feather glue
53. Give temporarily
55. Porridge grain
57. *Roman firework
60. *The Star-Spangled Banner"
63. Opposite of neo-
64. Glass margin
66. Continental money, pl.
68. Opposite of #17 Across
69. Go for the gold
70. "Silas Marner" author
71. Mexican money
72. Not yang
73. Down and out

DOWN

1. ___ constrictor, anagram
2. Word on a door
3. Duet plus one
4. Angry
5. Large California bird
6. Smelting waste
7. Stuff of inflation
8. Adagio and allegro, e.g.
9. German city on Rhine river
10. Con
11. Not of the cloth
12. Down with a bug
15. ___ someone ___ bed
20. Satirical publication, with The
22. Calligrapher's purchase
24. *From the ___ forest to the Gulf Stream waters"
25. *Old ___
26. Waterwheel
27. Hymn of praise
29. *Popular decoration
31. *Rockin' in the USA" band
32. Certain church member
33. Yiddish busybody
34. Theater guide
36. Kind of rock
38. Heroic tale
42. B on Mendeleev's table
45. "Where ___ is heard a discouraging word..."
49. Sushi restaurant staple
51. Shiny cotton
54. High-strung
56. Car rack manufacturer
57. Charlie Chaplin's prop
58. "Oh, my!"
59. Agrippina's slayer
60. "I'll second that"
61. Great Lake
62. State of mind
63. One in a litter
65. *King George ___
67. Farm structure

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CORN STALKS CAN GROW AS TALL AS THIRTEEN FEET HIGH.

AN OLD ADAGE AMONG CORN FARMERS WAS "KNEE HIGH BY THE FOURTH OF JULY," MEANING THAT IF ONE'S CORN STALKS WERE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS AN ADULT'S KNEES BY INDEPENDENCE DAY, THEY COULD EXPECT A GOOD HARVEST.

INSTEAD OF A SCARECROW, FARMERS TRYING TO KEEP RACCOONS OUT OF THEIR CORN CROPS OFTEN PLACED A PORTABLE RADIO IN THEIR FIELD AND LET IT PLAY ALL NIGHT.



June 2023 Solution



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