

# The Market Bulletin

<http://www.wvagriculture.org/>



Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner  
Janet L. Fisher, Deputy Commissioner  
Steve Hannah, Deputy Commissioner

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## The Importance of the Agricultural Sector in our Country is on the Rise

Indiana is proud that their Legislature has recognized the crucial role of agriculture to supply safe and dependable food to its citizens. They recently established a separate State Department of Agriculture with high-level Cabinet status in the Governor's administration. This legislation and recognition is long overdue as Indiana has a tremendous agricultural industry. Another state to gain this recognition is Arkansas which recently passed legislation to form a separate Department of Agriculture. Alaska and Rhode Island are now the only two states that are still divisions within other agencies in their states.

I'm also very pleased to learn that USDA Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns has selected a former head of a state department of agriculture to join his staff. Merlyn Carlson who served as Director of Agriculture in

Nebraska since 1999 will be joining USDA as Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Natural Resources and Environment. I have enjoyed my working relationship with Merlyn on National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) committees where he was very active and a valuable resource to all the commissioners. He did an especially good job in improving our relationship with Mexico through his

work with the Tri-National Agricultural Accord. He served on the U.S./Mexico Working Group to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the agricultural sectors of the U.S., Mexico and Canada. It goes without saying he is well-qualified for this position in USDA.

Farmland protection got another boost as the Governor's newly appointed West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority Board is now official. We have a

way to go to catch up with our neighboring state of Pennsylvania. They have over 2,500 farms enrolled in farmland protection. On May 17, they voted on a \$625 million bond issue to finance their *Growing Greener* program, which helps in part to preserve valuable farmland in their state. I commend the supporters in Pennsylvania and I am confident our program will gather the support and momentum we need to keep our green

space.

On to another topic of interest, my personal taste no longer favors white pork loin, as I consider it not as flavorful as the meat we enjoyed years ago. For this reason, I was pleased when I read a May 16, 2005, *Associated Press* article titled, *In Hunt for Tastier Pork, Hog Producers Eye Older Breeds*. The article notes, "The white faces, feet and tails on the otherwise black pigs



Gus' View...

mark them as Berkshires, a breed that nearly disappeared but is undergoing a renaissance. At a time when pork is promoted as "The Other White Meat" and lean reigns supreme, Berkshires are a step back in time. Their meat is redder and marbled like a beef steak. That makes it juicier, more flavorful and more tender, according to chefs, consumers and the family farmers, including me, who are part of a small but growing movement toward tastier pork.

While I'm on the subject of meat, I must comment on our beef industry in this country. The impact of our reactions to BSE in three cows originating from Canada is being adversely felt here in this country, more especially in the cattle processing industry. In the past, Canada has depended upon the U.S. for the processing of their beef, but that is changing. A May 17, 2005, USDA transcript of a tele-news conference Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns held on the subject notes that with the border closed because of BSE, Canada's cattle inventory as of April 1 jumped more than two million head compared with January 1, 2003. The number of federally-inspected slaughters in Canada rose 24 percent last year and climbed another 5 percent this year compared with the same period in 2004.



Commissioner Douglass crowns Strawberry King Aubrey Wilson while Strawberry Queen Janel Hedrick (crowned by Governor Manchin) looks on.

continued on page 2

# First-Ever Agritourism Survey Reveals Business Owners' Concerns

Agritourism operators in West Virginia singled out liability insurance costs as the single largest concern regarding their businesses, according to the results of the state's first-ever agritourism survey, released May 24 at a press conference at the Capitol Market's outdoor market in Charleston.

"West Virginia's abundant natural resources and its nation-leading percentage of family-owned farms make it an ideal state for developing agritourism enterprises," said Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass. "I was very pleased that 140 organizations responded to this initial survey. I think it shows this state already has a high level of involvement in this arena and the individuals involved see the potential of agritourism to positively affect their bottom lines."

The survey was developed and conducted by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Division of Tourism, Department of Commerce and Potomac Heritage Partnership.

It questioned business owners about the attractions offered, barriers to growing their businesses, and the types of assistance they would find helpful. Results are being used to develop a directory of agritourism businesses and to produce a strategic plan to promote and develop the industry.

The survey results show that agritourism businesses range from bed and breakfasts to fairs and festivals to Christmas tree farms.

Sixty-five percent of respondents named liability insurance costs as an "overwhelming obstacle." Thirty-five percent saw a need for

increased signage and marketing and advertising assistance was cited by 30 percent of the respondents.

Commerce Secretary L. Thomas Bulla noted that tourism is a critical industry in this state and that agritourism will provide needed dollars in rural economies and will help produce jobs throughout the state.

"Studies show that agritourism visitors come with families and friends and enjoy visiting several sites during their trip," Secretary Bulla said. "One study for Vermont showed that agritourism added \$10.5 million to farm incomes in a year. Certainly that is a development we would be excited to see here."



L-R: Chefs Joe Re and Steve Eades of the eatery, *Smokey's on the Gorge* at Class VI River Runners prepared food with *Smokey's* new line of gourmet products at the agritourism press conference. *Smokey's* is the latest entry into the blossoming agritourism business in West Virginia.



Commissioner Douglass reveals survey results that showed great potential for the agritourism industry in the Mountain State. Key players in the Survey included (seated l-r) Carrie Williams and Monica Miller (WV Heritage Tourism Initiative), Tourism Commissioner Betty Carver and WVDA Deputy Commissioner Janet Fisher.

Tourism Commissioner Betty Carver added that changes in demographics and vacationing habits have made agritourism a niche market that's growing. "The increased interest in travelers who want new experiences and escapes from traffic jams makes agritourism an exciting addition to West Virginia's travel mix," she said. "Combined with our cultural and outdoor recreation activities, a trip to the farm or a food festival is another fun family adventure."

## Gus' View...

continued from page 1

To add to this problem, several of our slaughtering and processing companies are relocating to Canada. I foresee a long-range problem associated with international trade as Canada can become a major competitor to us in overseas sales of beef. Secretary Johann announced that on June 9 he will hold a roundtable discussion regarding the safety of North American beef and the changing infrastructure of the industry. I

understand that producers, packers and other industry groups and academia will gather to discuss the science behind the USDA's safety surveillance program and the economic impact on the U.S. beef industry.

As usual, during the month of May I had the honor and pleasure of opening the fairs and festivals season with the Strawberry Festival in Buckhannon. I shared the honor of the coronation this year with Governor Joe Manchin. He crowned the 64th Strawberry Queen, Janel Hedrick. She is the daughter of Jerry and Janet Hedrick of the Smokehole Caverns in Grant County. I had the pleasure of crowning Aubrey Wilson for the second time as the Strawberry

Festival King. He won this honor two to three years ago. This is a great attraction each year for the local area and the state as they have one of the largest parades and crowds of any of the festivals. I congratulate festival organizers and the leadership in Buckhannon on another well-planned event.

Things are going relatively well on the farm. It looks like a short hay crop, as the cold weather has taken its toll. Fortunately, the frost skipped my garden and it is looking great. In fact, I've never seen better looking potatoes that are already in bloom. I would like to see us enjoying warmer weather.

# Premise Identification Information Will Remain Confidential

Legislation recently passed by the West Virginia Legislature will strengthen confidentiality protection for information provided by farmers for the state's Premise Identification System.



**State Veterinarian Joe Starcher prepares to insert an electronic tag into the ear of a calf at the Putnam County Fair. This county's fair is the first fair to require animals to carry a premise identification number and the first that Animal Health Division has assisted with the new electronic ear tags, each of which carries a unique, electronically scannable animal identification number. The technology will allow the development of a national database of all cattle and every premise the animals have visited, resulting in the ability to rapidly trace any diseased animal.**

The goal of the program is to develop a computer database and map of the physical location of every farm in the state.

"This legislation is important because it ensures farmers that the information they voluntarily supply will be used only to protect animal health in the Mountain State," said Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass.

"This information allows us to respond rapidly and appropriately in the event of an animal disease outbreak, but it's critical that everyone respond so we can have a complete collection of all the farms in West Virginia," said State Veterinarian Joe Starcher.

The state's Premise Identification Program is part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) being developed by USDA. The goal of the system is 48-hour traceback of any diseased animal to prevent the disease from spreading and to protect agricultural industries.

"The terror attacks of September 11 and the BSE-positive 'cow that stole Christmas' in 2003 were wakeup calls to state and federal agriculture agencies and to the agricultural community in general," said Commissioner Douglass. "The general public also needs to appreciate that it is the safety of their food supply that is at stake here."

When fully implemented, the NAIS will function in much the same way as grocery store checkout scanners. Individual animals will carry a unique tag or other means of identification that can be read electronically and transferred to a computer database quickly and accurately.

"When facing an animal disease outbreak of any sort, rapid detection and response is of the utmost importance," said State Veterinarian Joe Starcher. "Animals are constantly moving in commerce throughout this country and, like people, may be carrying a communicable disease with them. Therefore, every other animal they come into contact with becomes a potential vector for spreading the disease."

## *WVDA Surveying State Forests and State Parks for Tree Pests*

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is focusing on dangerous tree pests in West Virginia's state forests and parks this summer and is looking for help from the public.

"This summer, we want to gather as much data as possible on the extent of the emerald ash borer (EAB) and the gypsy moth within our state forests," said Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass. "At the same time, we are hoping to educate visitors about how they may prevent spreading these pests."

The WVDA with assistance from USDA, will conduct EAB surveys this summer, said Gary Gibson, Director of WVDA's Plant Industries Division (PID). "We welcome the public's input into this survey. Although EAB has not been found in West Virginia, EAB-infested trees exhibit distinctive damage and informational materials will indicate how to

contact our division if hikers or campers find evidence of the pest."

EAB, an exotic beetle, was discovered in the United States near Detroit, Mich., in the summer of 2002. It probably arrived in the United States in solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. It has also been detected in Windsor, Ontario, Ohio, northern Indiana, Virginia and Maryland. Since its discovery in this country, EAB has killed 8-10 million trees, resulting in quarantines and substantial financial losses for affected landowners and industries. The EAB infestations in Virginia and Maryland are the result of quarantine violations.

The adult EAB nibbles on ash foliage. Larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Adults are me-

tallic green and are about one-half inch long. They leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark when they emerge in the spring.

The gypsy moth is one of North America's most devastating forest pests. The species has been in Europe and Asia for thousands of years. It was introduced to this country in the late 1800s near Boston and has been spreading ever since. It feeds on the foliage of hundreds of species of plants, but it is partial to oaks, West Virginia's dominant tree species.

Trailers, recreational vehicles and mobile homes pose a risk of moving gypsy moth. Gypsy moths lay their egg masses in sheltered areas, such as the underside of travel trailers. By building awareness, travelers can recognize and destroy gypsy moths and their egg masses if they are detected.

*Surveying, continued on page 4*

# BLACK FLY CONTROL PROGRAM

Dr. Lois Swoboda, WVDA Plant Industries Division

Black flies are small dark colored gnats. Black flies breed in running water, and have always been a common pest in West Virginia, which has an abundance of rivers and creeks. Black flies are attracted to the carbon dioxide exhaled by all animals, including human beings, and they tend to cluster around the mouth and nostrils of fishermen, hikers, laborers and others involved in outdoor activities. In addition, female black flies are blood feeders. The degree of sensitivity to black fly bites varies among human beings and in some cases the reaction to a bite causes great discomfort. Biting usually occurs outdoors during the daylight hours in shaded or partially shaded areas. Use of insect repellent and proper clothing can reduce the likelihood of being bitten.

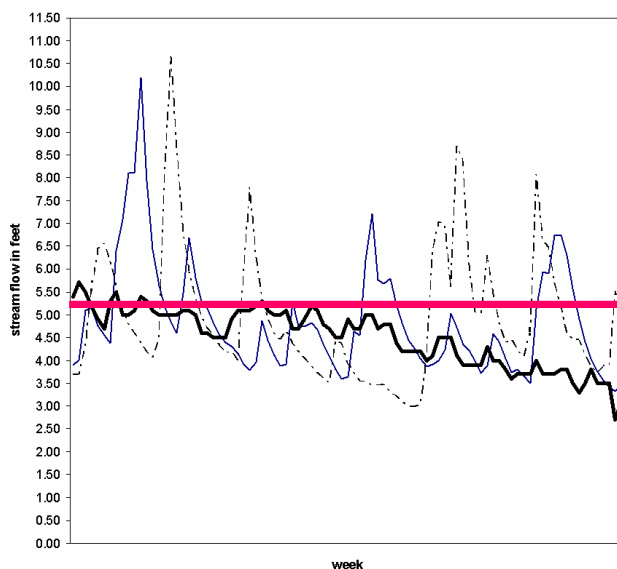
In the early 1980s the groundwork for a state black fly control program was laid out. Spraying has been conducted annually since 1986. The West Virginia Black Fly Control Program, which is administered by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), Plant Industries Division, focuses on the New River Valley and treats portions of the Bluestone, Greenbrier and New Rivers. The three rivers involved in the program are regularly sampled to determine if there are black flies present. The goal of the WVDA Black Fly Control Program is to maintain control of the black fly population without harming other members of the aquatic community.

The product applied to control black flies in West Virginia is actually a bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*). *Bti* is toxic to immature or larval black flies. Unlike typical nerve-poison insecticides, *Bti* acts by producing proteins that react with the cells lining the gut of susceptible insects. These *Bti* proteins paralyze the digestive system, and the infected insect stops feeding within hours. *Bti*-affected insects generally die from starvation, which can take several days. Occasionally, the bacteria enter the insect's blood and reproduce within

the insect. However, in most insects it is the reaction of the protein crystal that is lethal to the insect. Even dead bacteria containing the proteins are effective insecticides. *Bti* has been demonstrated to be nontoxic to mammals and other vertebrates including fish, at the concentrations used to treat our rivers. Its toxic effects are limited almost exclusively to blood-feeding flies like mosquitoes and black flies.

The *Bti* is applied between early March and early October at irregular intervals determined by weather conditions, stream flow and the number of black flies present. Because many factors must be considered before organizing a spray treatment, it is impossible to publish a spray schedule in advance. Above is a stream flow chart from the gauge at Pipestem, W.Va. When the flow rate is greater than 5.2 feet per second we cannot treat for black flies in this portion of the Bluestone River. As you can see, treatments must sometimes be cancelled due to high water. In addition, we do not treat during bad weather, on weekends or holidays or at any time when an unusually large number of people are expected on or around the rivers.

When we do treat, *Bti* is released as a liquid over the water from a helicopter. It is similar to chocolate milk in appearance and has a fishy smell. Every effort is made to distribute the chemical evenly over the entire width of the stream while minimizing drift onto surrounding



**This graph represents the stream flow in the Bluestone River during the months of June, July and August. The thick horizontal line marks the highest point at which we can treat for black flies (5.2 feet). Based on the mean stream flow for 56 years one might believe that it is possible to treat at almost any time, but when one studies the actual stream flow the picture is somewhat different.**

vegetation. However, there is always a possibility that a small quantity of spray may drift off target.

Our pilots always attempt to avoid spraying people, but your cooperation is appreciated. Remember that even though you can see the helicopter the pilot may not be able to see you! If the pilot sees you, he or she may hail you over the helicopter's loudspeaker system or may circle several times. If you are in or very near the water and are hailed by a pilot or notice a helicopter (normally red & white colored) circling low nearby, it is best to seek shelter on the bank until the treatment is completed. The actual spray takes only a few seconds. Many people find the fishlike smell of the spray unpleasant. It is advisable to change your clothing and wash away spray residue as soon as possible, if you are sprayed with *Bti*.

We are constantly investigating ways to improve and expand the West Virginia State Black Fly Control Program so that it can better serve the residents of West Virginia.

For further information about black flies and the WVDA Black Fly Control program, contact Dr. Lois E. Swoboda at (304) 558-2212, or by email, [lswoyoda@ag.state.wv.us](mailto:lswoyoda@ag.state.wv.us).

## Surveying, continued from page 3

According to WVDA Entomologist Terry Carrington, firewood is one of the prime culprits for introduction of foreign pests, such as gypsy moth and EAB, into West Virginia's forests. "Some people bring their own firewood when they come to West Virginia, rather than buying firewood at the campground," he said. "That incoming firewood can harbor invasive species. If people bring firewood with them, then they need to burn all of it before they leave."

Exotic pests are often more destructive when newly introduced because they do not have

natural population controls such as parasites, predators or diseases. Native host plants, deprived of previous contact with an exotic pest, cannot always adapt and develop effective defenses against them.

Posters showing the various life stages of gypsy moths and the range of the gypsy moth in the United States will be posted at campgrounds throughout the state. Similar information about EAB and the problems associated with imported firewood will also be posted.

# Household Pesticide Safety



*Dr. Lois Swoboda, WVDA Plant Industries Division*

Homeowners often get distressed at the sight of a few ants on the window sill or a single fly at the kitchen waste basket. This is understandable. We work hard to keep our homes comfortable and clean and household insects intrude into our most personal space. Many people respond to insect intruders by making a quick trip to the hardware or grocery store to purchase a pesticide sprayer or aerosol can of pre-mixed insecticide. There are several advantages to buying ready to use 'bug spray'. Since there is no need to measure and mix, consumers have less contact with the pesticide and such sprays are formulated to have a relatively long shelf life. In addition, premixed sprays are usually available in several different sizes so it is possible to purchase the amount of pesticide needed for the job and storage of a concentrated product is unnecessary. On the negative side, premixed sprays are relatively expensive and, because they are so easy to use, they are also easy to overuse.

People sometimes regard pesticides as 'safe' because they are readily available. By their nature, all pesticides pose a risk to some organism and all such chemicals should be applied with caution and handled with respect. Even over the counter pre-mixed products can cause serious harm or even death if improperly applied. If you are faced with the problem of insects in the home there are several simple rules that will minimize the possibility of causing damage or even injury when handling premixed insecticide:

1. Ask yourself if the problem can be managed without applying a pesticide. For example, sometimes flies in the kitchen are simply the result of a hole in the screen door. The best solution is to fix the hole and avoid the use of toxic chemicals near the food preparation area.

2. If you decide that a pesticide is needed to control a pest problem, choose the product carefully. READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY before choosing a spray and only buy a product that states on the label that it is effective against the pest you want to control. If you want to rid your house of ants, a spray designed to treat wasps nests may not help! Also, if you intend to use the product inside of your house be sure the label states that the product is designed for interior use. Products designed for use in the garden should not be used inside. Misuse of a pesticide is a violation of the law and can be dangerous.

3. Once you have chosen the right pesticide for the job, be sure to read the label carefully before applying it. You should understand how to use the product safely and what to do if there is an accident before you apply it.

4. Be sure that ALL pesticides are stored properly and where children and pets will not be accidentally exposed to them. Read the label carefully before each application. Do not rely on your memory.

5. Only apply the recommended amount of pesticide! MORE IS NOT BETTER! Applying too much insecticide can actually cause it to be repellant to target pests and thus interfere with its effectiveness.

6. Never apply any pesticide directly to food, dishes or cooking utensils!

7. Always wash your hands thoroughly after using any pesticide, even if it is a pre-mixed spray in a pump bottle or aerosol can.

## 2005 Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Pheromone Flake Project to Begin

Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass recently announced that the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS) will be treating 11,975 acres of state and private lands in West Virginia for low level gypsy moth infestations. The land proposed for treatment occurs in four blocks in Raleigh, Summers, Mercer, and Wyoming Counties.

Treatment will consist of pheromone flakes aerially applied by agricultural spray planes. The tiny flakes (1/32" X 3/32") are impregnated with a pheromone that is a sex attractant for male gypsy moths. The sex attractant is specific for the gypsy moth and affects no other insects. Pheromone flakes act to disrupt gypsy moth mating by confusing the male gypsy moths. This results in a reduction in the spread rate of the insect.

The pheromone flake project will likely operate out of the Mercer County Airport at Bluefield, West Virginia or the Raleigh County Airport at Beckley. It is anticipated that the project will begin around June 21 and should be completed in two or three days depending on the weather. The contact phone number for this operation will be 304/552-8565.

Public notifications, environmental assessments, biological evaluations, work and safety plans, and decision notices have all been completed for this project, which is a cooperative effort with the USDA-FS, West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service, West Virginia Division of Forestry, and landowners to protect the state's forest resources.

Commissioner Douglass stated that "the STS Program began in 1993 as a pilot project to demonstrate that the gypsy moth spread rate

could be reduced in a cost-effective manner. In 2000, STS became a formal program with eight states from North Carolina to Wisconsin participating. Minnesota joined the program in 2004. A variety of techniques are used to manage isolated gypsy moth populations in the transition zone between the generally infested area and the area where no detectable populations can be found." Most of southern West Virginia falls within the STS Program area.

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*For more information on the STS Gypsy Moth Treatment Program, you may contact Gary Gibson, Director, or S. Clark Haynes, Assistant Director, of the Plant Industries Division in Charleston at 304-558-2212 or Butch Sayers, Gypsy Moth Program Manager, in New Creek at 304-788-1066.*

# A Brief Look at Soil pH

Thomas Clark, Marketing Specialist-Horticulture, WVDA

*The pH of a soil is very important because it directly effects what nutrients are available for uptake by plants. We're basically talking soil chemistry here. At different pH levels, various nutrients become more or less available. A basic understanding of soil pH and how it works will help you understand the relationship between plants, their ability to absorb the nutrients that make them grow, and the medium in which this interaction takes place. In other words, it'll make you a better gardener!*

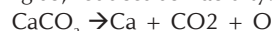
Soil pH is a measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of soil. The pH scale runs from 0 (most acid) to 14 (most alkaline), with 7 as neutral. The pH scale is logarithmic. Going down the scale from pH 7 (neutral), each number is 10 times more acid than the one before it. A soil with a pH of 6 is 10 times more acid than neutral (pH 7); a soil with a pH of 5 is 100 times more acid than neutral (pH 7). Each number above 7 is 10 times more alkaline than the one before it. Alkaline soils are sometimes referred to as "sweet" and acid soils as "sour." (Although this has nothing to do with the way they taste).

Technically, pH is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration. In a nutshell, pH is a measurement of hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) in the soil. The more hydrogen ions there are, the more acid the soil. Plants have difficulty getting the nutrients they need when there are too many H<sup>+</sup> ions loose in the soil. Most soils in West Virginia have a large volume of clay. Clay has a net negative ionic

charge. This charge causes the previously mentioned positively charged hydrogen ions to become dislodged from things like water (H<sub>2</sub>O), or ammonium nitrate fertilizer (NH<sub>3</sub>). The freed H<sup>+</sup> ions create soil acidity. The strong negative charge of clay particles is the reason West Virginia soils are generally acidic on the pH scale. Clay can hold onto many H<sup>+</sup> ions (more than any other type of soil particle) so clay soils will always retain a general condition of acidity over time. For this reason, I'll focus this discussion on the management of acid soils rather than alkaline soils which are not common to West Virginia."

With a few notable exceptions most plants grow best in a pH of about 6.0-6.5. This slightly acidic pH is where the largest number of nutrient ions, such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous and calcium are available for plant uptake. So how do you get an acid soil up to a pH of 6.0-6.5? Lime of course! The chemical composition of dolomitic lime is mainly calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

Lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) reacts with H<sup>+</sup> ions to form carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) and in doing so, reduces soil acidity.



Throw some H<sup>+</sup> ions into that soup and you get:

Ca<sup>+</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O (Each free oxygen ion from the line above combines with two H<sup>+</sup> ions to create water.)

You can see now why knowing the pH of your soil is important before you apply fertilizer or lime. If it's not in the right range, much of your fertilizer may not be getting to your plants anyway and lime will make nutrients already present, easier for plants to absorb. Obviously, a pH test on your soil is paramount to anyone serious about maintaining healthy, productive soil. Soil pH is just the tip of the soil chemistry iceberg, but knowledge of the how's and why's behind it will make your thumbs a lot greener.

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*Thomas Clark received his B.S. in Horticulture from West Virginia University. If you have any questions about this article, he can be contacted at the WVDA's Marketing & Development Division at 304-558-2210 or through email at [tclark@ag.state.wv.us](mailto:tclark@ag.state.wv.us).*

## REMINDER!

### West Virginia Department of Agriculture Seeking Agricultural Photos for Contest

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) West Virginia Statistical Office are jointly sponsoring an agricultural photo contest, in which selected photos will be featured in the Statistical Office's 2005 Annual Bulletin.

The Photo Contest will be divided into the following four categories:

1. **Barns**
2. **Crops (field, vegetables, fruit, nursery, etc.)**
3. **Livestock and Poultry**
4. **People (Farming in Action)**

A winning photograph from each category will be selected. The winners from each category will receive a gift basket filled with West Virginia Grown products courtesy of Commissioner Gus R. Douglass.

Submission deadline is **June 15, 2005**. Photographs will not be returned and become property of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture upon submission. For more information, please contact the WVDA's Communications Division at 558-3708.

#### Mail your photo to:

W.Va. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Statistics Division  
c/o Farm Photo Contest  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.  
Charleston, WV 25305-0170

Please include your full name, address, phone number and indicate the category you wish to enter. Also include a description of the photo, where in West Virginia it was taken and the approximate date it was taken. Digital photographs should be e-mailed to [bsouthern@ag.state.wv.us](mailto:bsouthern@ag.state.wv.us).

## Save the Date!



August 12-21, 2005

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Adult Gate Admission .....                         | \$9  |
| Youth Gate Admission                               |      |
| (ages 6-17) .....                                  | \$6  |
| Children 5 and under .....                         | FREE |
| BB&T Adult Super                                   |      |
| Saver advance ticket .....                         | \$7  |
| BB&T Youth Super                                   |      |
| Saver advance ticket .....                         | \$4  |
| Carnival Mega Pass (includes gate admission) ..... | \$22 |

Visit [www.wvstatefair.com](http://www.wvstatefair.com) for more information.

# Local Beekeeping Associations In West Virginia

*Tom Kees, West Virginia Beekeepers Association Executive Board*

Beekeepers in West Virginia are in the middle of their busiest time of year, March through September. Often things happen in the hive that are unfamiliar to the beekeeper. A hive may have two queens co-existing in the same hive; the colony may be queenless because of an accident or failure of the original queen; some worker bees may become "laying workers" because of the disappearance of the queen pheromone in the hive. These possibilities often confuse beekeepers, especially the less experienced.

Local groups offer support, encouragement, and the most up-to-date methods in honey bee management. These groups are connected with the state association, whose purpose is to help improve the skills of all beekeepers regardless of membership in the association.

This listing of beekeeper associations is provided as a help to beekeepers and those interested in honeybees.

*Annual dues in the WVBA for membership-at-large is \$7. Membership through affiliation with a local association is \$6.00.*

## West Virginia Beekeepers Association

### President

#### **Gordon Mead**

70 Shady Lane  
Winfield, WV  
(304) 562-3339  
[geniebee@juno.com](mailto:geniebee@juno.com)

### Vice President

#### **Troy Holbrook**

HC 37, Box 167A  
Lewisburg, WV 24576  
(304) 497-2966  
[tjholbrook@citynet.net](mailto:tjholbrook@citynet.net)

### Secretary

#### **Sharron Ball**

Rt. 7 Box 542-C  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
(304) 534-3196  
[sball10623@aol.com](mailto:sball10623@aol.com)

### Treasurer

#### **David Freese**

196 Monarch Court  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
(304) 267-6188  
[wvbeekeepers@adelphia.net](mailto:wvbeekeepers@adelphia.net)

## Affiliated West Virginia Beekeeping Associations

### **Barbour County Beekeepers**

Karen Gibson  
Rt 1 Box 144-A  
Belington, WV 25250  
(304) 823-1352

### **Cabell-Wayne Beekeepers**

Gabe & Rhonna Blatt  
3554 Haney's Branch Road  
Huntington WV 25704  
(304) 429-1268  
[gabebblatt@prodigy.net](mailto:gabebblatt@prodigy.net)

### **Central West Virginia Beekeepers**

KarenHarper  
Rt 35. Box 25  
Napier, WV 26631  
(304) 452-8509

### **Clay County Beekeepers**

Diana Barker  
HC 72 Box 22  
Ovapa WV 25150  
(304) 565-3022  
[dybarker@hotmail.com](mailto:dybarker@hotmail.com)

### **Corridor G Beekeepers**

Kathy Watson  
RR 1 61B, Covert Branch Rd  
Chapmanville WV 25508  
(304) 855-8504  
[kwatson@marshall.edu](mailto:kwatson@marshall.edu)

### **Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers**

David Freese  
196 Monarch Court  
Martinsburg WV 25401  
(304) 267-6188  
[epbawv@adelphia.net](mailto:epbawv@adelphia.net)  
[www.epbawv.org](http://www.epbawv.org)

### **Hampshire County Beekeepers**

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### **Jackson County Beekeepers**

David Rectenwald  
Rt. 3, Box 68  
Kenna, WV 25248  
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### **Kanawha Valley Beekeepers**

Allen & Imogene Leadmon  
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### **McDowell County Beekeepers**

Mike Mullens  
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Jolo WV 24850  
(304) 938-3496

### **Marion County Beekeepers**

Susan Perkins  
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Fairmont, WV 26554  
304-368-0813  
[susanleniseperkins@yahoo.com](mailto:susanleniseperkins@yahoo.com)

### **Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers**

Teresa Wagoner  
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### **Morgantown Area Beekeepers**

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### **North Central Beekeepers**

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### **Southeastern Beekeepers**

Mary Holseapple  
Rt 2 Box 271  
Pickaway, WV 24976  
(304) 466-0839  
[omg.02689@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:omg.02689@mail.wvnet.edu)

### **Tri State Beekeepers**

Donald Snider  
7 Meadow Drive  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 242-5878

### **Tucker County Beekeepers**

Marvin Cantfield  
P.O. Box 247  
Parsons, WV 26287  
304-478-8602

### **Webster County Beekeepers**

Kelley Clutter  
52 Elk River Rd  
Webster Springs, WV 26288  
(304) 847-2151  
[honeybees@msn.com](mailto:honeybees@msn.com)

# What's Cookin'

## Recipes

### Crunchy Yogurt Parfaits

- 8 ounces frozen yogurt, any flavor
- 8 ounces whipped topping
- 1 medium banana, sliced
- 1 20-ounce can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 cup crunchy breakfast cereal

Place frozen yogurt and ½ of whipped topping into large bowl; stir until smooth. Alternately layer yogurt mixture, bananas, pineapple chunks, crunchy cereal and remaining ½ of whipped topping in parfait glasses; repeat layers.

## Recipes

### Ham Rollups

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- ½ 10-ounce jar of Appalachian Mountain The Real McCoy Mustard Sauce with Garlic
- 1 tablespoon of Locust Honey
- 6 flour tortillas
- 6 ounces Black Diamond Tavern Ham, sliced thin

Combine cream cheese, mustard sauce and honey; blend well. Evenly spread cream cheese mixture on tortilla, lay 1 layer of ham on top, roll tight; refrigerate. Slice and serve.

*The "Ham Rollups" recipe was prepared by students in the culinary program at Mountain State University and was served at the recent agritourism conference.*

# Dairy Month Celebration

by Jean Smith, Director, Marketing and Development Division

June is Dairy Month! And a wonderful time to remember the many benefits that the consumption of dairy products provides for our bodies! Dairy products are a great source of calcium, phosphorus, Vitamin D. Including three servings of dairy products in the daily diet contributes to maintaining well-balanced diet.

We are lucky to have the highest number of family farms in the nation here in West Virginia — 20,800! Thanks to all of our West Virginia farmers for supplying wholesome food!

Enjoy these great tasting dairy recipes!

~ Bon Appetite

## Recipes

### Cheesy Chicken & Rice

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 tablespoon oil                      | ¼ teaspoon paprika                  |
| 4 boneless chicken breasts            | ¼ teaspoon pepper                   |
| 1 can condensed cream of chicken soup | 2 cups instant rice, uncooked       |
| 1 ½ cups water                        | 2 cups broccoli florets             |
|                                       | 1 cup shredded cheese (any variety) |

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet. Add chicken, cook 5 minutes on each side, remove from skillet; cover to keep warm.

Add soup, water and seasonings to skillet and stir. Bring mixture to boil. Stir in rice and broccoli. Top with chicken; cook until chicken is cooked thoroughly and rice is tender. Add cheese; continue cooking until cheese is melted.

## Recipes

### Mexican Fried Ice Cream

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 quart vanilla ice cream                          | Oil for deep frying |
| 1 cup corn flakes or cookie crumbs, crushed finely | 2 eggs              |
| 2 teaspoons cinnamon                               | 8 ounces honey      |
| 4 teaspoons sugar                                  | 1 can whipped cream |

Scoop ice cream into balls and return to freezer. Mix crumbs, cinnamon and sugar. Roll frozen ice cream balls in ½ of crumb mixture; refreeze.

Heat oil to 450° F.

Beat eggs until lemony in color. Dip ice cream balls in egg mixture, then again in crumb mixture. Return to freezer if oil has not reached 450°F. When oil is ready, place frozen ice cream in fryer basket or use a slotted spoon and lower slowly into oil for 1 minute. Remove from oil; place on serving plate. Drizzle with honey; top with whipped cream.

## Pick Your Own Directory

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture is compiling information for a "Pick Your Own" produce brochure. If you operate a farm that is open to the public for harvest of fruit and vegetables, send us your contact information and we'll add you to the directory.

**Please fill in the blanks for all information that applies.**

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal/Operational Hrs.: \_\_\_\_\_

### Clip and mail to:

Thomas Clark  
WVDA  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.  
Charleston, WV 25305  
or [tclark@ag.state.wv.us](mailto:tclark@ag.state.wv.us)