

The Market Bulletin

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



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

Vol. 89, No. 9

September 2005

State Fair Highlights

Anna Lee and I have just returned from the State Fair of West Virginia. We enjoyed the whole program and judging by the attendance numbers, many other people did too.

Among the attractions were free shows at the Grandstand and a favorite morning event, the Horse Pull Competition, which provided an exciting conclusion to the Fair with six finalists in a pull for the championship. This event and the Fair's reputation are attracting horse pullers from as far away as Florida. In fact, a Florida team won the championship. It was a great show for the crowd in the Grandstand.

Anna Lee and I loved viewing the shelves filled with produce and all kinds of product exhibits in the West Virginia Building. In the Underwood Youth Center, the 4-H and FFA youth did themselves proud in their displays as well. The commercial exhibits were realigned this year which I thought provided for a better display with the farm machinery on the edge of the grounds. In the animal barns, young men and women had the opportunity to hone their skills in livestock showing. They all did a great job. My great-grandson was fascinated by the ducks and baby chicks in the Poultry Building.

I must also mention the horse shows that were held in the Bluegrass Bowl. The youth competition was tremendous and exemplifies the quality of horses, and the training our young men and women are getting. The folks at Potomac State College tell me their equestrian program is bringing in a lot of new students interested in strengthening their skills in this arena.

One of the other highlights was the State Fair of West Virginia joining with the West Virginia Farm Bureau in recognizing outstanding individuals in the 2005 Agricultural Achievement Awards. The Young Farmer Award went to Joshua Rice, 19, of Cassville, Monongalia County. He is currently enrolled in the pre-veterinary program at West Virginia University and is a member of numerous organizations including FFA and 4-H.

The Heritage Award went to the William C. and Carole Taylor Family Farm, Grant County.

This family farm has been active for 109 years with nine family members that currently assist with the farm or work in agriculture. This farm has won many awards through the years including the WV Purebred Cattlemen of the Year. The family is active in numerous farm organizations. Congratulations to both winners, Joshua Rice, and the William C. and Carole Taylor Family Farm. I commend the State Fair and West Virginia Farm Bureau for recognizing these outstanding individuals.

The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) met during the State Fair. Dr. Cameron Hackney, Dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, and President of the WVAFHF, chaired the meeting. This organization has come of age and we are now in the planning stages of a renovation of the WVAFHF building at Jackson's Mill.



L-R: State Fair President John Wilson, WVDA Marketing and Development Director Jean Smith, Governor Manchin, State Fair Manager Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe and WVDA Deputy Commissioner Steve Hannah gather for a snapshot at the 2005 State Fair of West Virginia. See full coverage of the Fair in the October Bulletin issue.

The renovation design includes space to showcase the history of the organization and its enshrines and to make this history educational and accessible to the public.

My office at the State Fair was busy as I had



Gus' View...

folks dropping by to visit and to conduct business. I enjoyed meeting new friends and seeing old friends again. My office also provided a convenient place to bring state agencies together at a West Virginia Resource Roundtable meeting. Dr. Larry Cote, Director, Cooperative Extension Service at West Virginia University, serves as Chair.

On the agenda was a discussion of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding the case of *Kelo vs. New London* which determined that eminent domain could be used to secure property for private businesses. This ruling means there is no protection for any property if a private business or developer can prove to the court through eminent domain that the property can show a positive economic benefit for the public.

I also took the opportunity to hold a discussion on the Exotic Pet Law which the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has endeavored to have passed in the Legislature the past two years. We are now finding more instances where exotic pets are carriers of contagious disease which can threaten human health. I believe this law needs revisited in the next session for enactment. As a case in point, we were recently alerted through the Centers for Disease Control that hamsters and other pet rodents may be infected with a virus called lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) which may be harmful to humans with compromised immune systems.

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Gus' View...

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Along this same line, we held a Media Day in Beckley on the Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Drop which is an immunization program for wildlife. A joint effort with USDA Wildlife Services, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Natural Resources and the WVDA recently completed the aerial dropping of 2.3 million baits laced with rabies vaccine. This program has been deemed successful as spot checks of wildlife, especially raccoons, have indicated that we have a 30 percent or better immunization rate. This is good news as we continue to hear about positive rabies in wildlife. Recently a bobcat that attacked a pet dog in Berkeley County was found to have rabies.



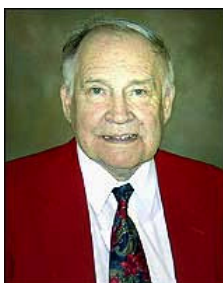
The Grandstand was full for the always-popular Draft Pull at the 2005 State Fair. See results in the October Market Bulletin issue.

Numerous newspapers are reporting avian influenza and the mutation of this virus in Asian countries. This virus started as the Hong Kong bird flu and has been found in Vietnam. It now appears to have crossed the country of China. This is the contagious H5N1 strain that has killed more than 50 people in Asia since 2003. Though great efforts have been made to control this virus, Russia is now finding birds testing positive in several locations. The movement of this virus is being contributed to migratory birds. If this pattern continues, researchers are indicating the virus can move

Guess How Many Kernels? State Fair Contest

The WVDA had, as part of its display, a "Guess the Number of Corn Kernels" Contest with the prize being a West Virginia Grown Food Basket. The number of kernels was 8,126. Ms. Courtney Frack of Lewisburg and Mr. Tom Gibson of Bluefield both guessed 8,123 kernels. Each will receive a gift basket.

As this issue of *The Market Bulletin* was going to print, we received word of the death of Dr. Lewis Thomas, former State Veterinarian for the West Virginia Department of



Dr. Lewis Thomas

Agriculture. Dr. Thomas and his wife, Norma, had retired a few years ago and moved to Henderson, Nevada to be near their daughters.

His death is a great loss not only to his family and friends, but to West Virginia and the nation. He was one of the most knowledgeable individuals that I have had the privilege to know. I always teased Dr. Thomas that he was my walking encyclopedia – some of the most professional advice made available to me was received from him during his career here at the Department.

He was a friend to many of his co-workers here in the Department. He never forgot to honor your birthday by sending you a special handmade card. Dr. Thomas was a sharecropper's son who made his family proud, and he will be greatly missed by many, but not forgotten. _____ *Gene P. Douglas*

freely on the migratory track of birds across India into Iran, Iraq, and the European continent. Considerable effort is being made in researching vaccines and other ways to contain this virus to prevent its development into a pandemic disease.

Of interest to ginseng harvesters here in the state, the West Virginia Legislature, amended the law regulating the harvesting of ginseng. The opening day has been moved from August 15 to September 1 and ends on November 30. The West Virginia law also provides that harvested ginseng must be a minimum of 5 years old and can most often be identified by

having at least three prongs. The law also requires that all seeds from wild ginseng be planted "at the time and at the site from which the wild ginseng is harvested. It is unlawful to remove wild ginseng seeds from the site of collection." Rick Steelhammer, staff writer for the *Charleston Gazette*, noted in a recent article that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analysis concluded that plants dug for export should be at least 10 years old or have four or more prongs in order to prevent a major decline in the root. West Virginia Division of Forestry officials are trying to determine whether this analysis will have an effect on the law, but the best information I have now indicates state regulations will prevail for this harvest season.

Workers at the Capitol Complex are enjoying shopping during their lunch time for fresh fruits and vegetables from the Capitol Market in Charleston. First Lady Gayle Manchin thought it would be a good idea to bring the Farmers' Market to the Capitol Complex one day a week. With encouragement from the Department of Health and Human Resources to provide ways for workers to improve their

diets, and in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Administration, Division of Natural Resources and others, the Farmers' Market at the Capitol became a reality and is a great success. Vendors from the Capitol Market are very pleased with their sales at this location. The market will continue until October.

I want to recognize the death of a great friend and leader in the agricultural arena. Roy Jennings Michael departed this life May 28, 2005. Anyone in the horse industry, especially the draft horse industry, recognizes his name. Roy meant many things to many people, but to the West Virginia Draft Horse and Mule Association, he was a mover and shaker beginning in the organization's early years. The Draft Horse Field Days have grown in popularity. If you have never attended one of these events, you may want to contact Sue and John Crist at 594-1799 for a schedule of upcoming activities. Again, Roy Jennings Michael will be missed.

I ended August with a four-day tour circling West Virginia as a judge in the West Virginia Conservation Farm Tour. I, along with other members of agriculture and conservation agencies in the state, viewed six farms in all corners of the state. The hours were long and many miles were traveled, but I consider this a great opportunity to see the condition of farms in West Virginia and visit with farm families who do a tremendous job in preserving the farm way of life for future generations. The winners will be announced at the annual meeting of the Conservation Partnership Conference November 1-3 in Charleston.

Recent rains have helped to relieve the extremely dry conditions we have suffered from in the past three months on the farm. The garden is doing well as we had been watering it from the lake. It's keeping Anna Lee busy refilling our pantry for the winter months. I hope your gardens are doing well and your preparations for the coming winter are underway. _____ *Gene P. Douglas*



WEST VIRGINIA CELEBRATES *National Honey Month*

*by George Clutter, State Apiarist and Paul Poling, Apiary Specialist
West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Marketing and Development Division*

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has proclaimed September as National Honey Month to assist the National Honey Board and other beekeeping groups in promoting honey and other beekeeping services. Beekeepers all across America celebrate this time of harvest and in West Virginia (WV) it is celebrated every year the second week of September in Parkersburg at the West Virginia Honey Festival (WVHF) at city park. The Festival is enjoyed by both beekeepers and the general public.

Attractions include:

- Bee supplies for sale.
- Honey contest.
- Honey baking contest.
- Honey extracting demonstration.
- Arts and crafts.
- Car show.
- Bee beard show.
- Gospel group.
- Contemporary music band and cloggers.
- Honey princess pageant.
- Cooking demonstrations by the American and W.Va. Honey Festival Princess.
- Candle dipping.

Approximately 15 years ago the National Honey board was formed by producers, packers and importers/exporters in the U.S. to lift the awareness and use of honey by consumers, the food service industry and manufacturers. The Board is funded by a one cent per pound levy on domestic and imported honey. All beekeepers who produce and market their

honey are required to report their sales transactions and pay this assessment. The National Honey Board has

three websites. They are www.nhb.org, www.honey.com and www.honeylocator.com. These sites provide recipes ranging from honey drinks to beauty aids, information on health benefits, the nutritional aspects of using honey, bee research and much more.

The WVHF was established in 1981 with the help of Richard Marshall, West Virginia Extension Service and the Little Kanawha Development Group. The festival was founded to help beekeepers find markets for their honey products. Beekeepers from all over the state come to the festival bringing a variety of different honeys for sale. The WVHF committee now consists of several volunteers who hold regular meetings throughout the year to develop new ideas and plans for the upcoming festivals.

In 1985, Steve Conlon, his sons and wife Ellie began performing a very unique show that Steve, Bard Montgomery and Clyde Hutchinson developed while all were employed by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) Apiary Program. Conlon would take the queen bee from one of his hives and place it on his chin. One of the family members would then pour thousands of bees onto Steve's chest where they would crawl up -onto the queen forming what beekeepers call a bee beard. At every show the bleachers are always filled with folks left standing and crowding around to see the show. Ahhhs, oohs and wows can often be heard from children and adults alike. For Steve, the show is always sealed with a kiss

from his wife Ellie who braves the thousands of bees in the screened enclosure and on his face. It's a must see for everyone who attends the festival.

The WVDA's educational display at the WVHF provides the public an opportunity to speak to apiary staff on becoming a beekeeper and to learn about parasites, disease problems and more. The big attraction at the display has always been the honey extracting demonstration. Clyde Hutchinson, a retired WVDA employee enjoys telling folks as he uses his electric knife to remove the wax cappings from the combs about the sweet profits and importance of beekeeping from 1986 until he retired in 1997. The extracting demonstration continues to draw interest from festival attendants as they marvel over the removal of honey from the combs.

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USDA Launches Web Soil Survey Site *Thirty five West Virginia counties have soil map data available*

USDA Secretary Mike Johanns recently announced the launch of a USDA Web Soil Survey site that will provide secure public access to the national soils information system.

West Virginia currently has 35 counties with soils map data available for the web soil survey. Soils map data is in progress for 20 counties.

Go to <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/release/2005/05aug16soils.html> to read the story and <http://soils.usda.gov/survey/> to see the web soil survey site.

What's Cookin'

Recipes

Summer Lime Beef Salad

Third Place, Quick & Easy Beef Contest
Eva Faulkner – Princeton, W.Va.

- 16 ounces deli roast-beef, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup pecans, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons lime curd (avail. in jam & jelly aisle.)
- ⅓ cup white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons stone ground mustard
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 5-ounce bag spring mix salad greens
- 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
- ½ medium red onion, diced
- 1 sweet yellow pepper, sliced
- ¼ cup shaved Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup fresh red raspberries
- Zest of one fresh lime

Beef: Layer 2 slices of beef; starting at long side, roll tightly. Slice in ¼" slices, similar to pinwheels. Repeat with all beef slices.

Pecans: Stir pecans in hot skillet until slightly toasted; let cool.

Dressing: In small bowl, whisk thoroughly lime curd, vinegar, mustard and sugar; set aside.

Salad: On salad platter, loosely layer salad greens, mushrooms, onion & peppers. Artfully place beef wheels across top of salad; Scatter Parmesan cheese and pecans; place raspberries; top with lime zest. Drizzle with dressing immediately before serving.

West Virginia Pumpkin Festival

Milton Pumpkin Park
October 6-9, 2005

Pumpkin Bake-Off
October 8

Contact the WVDA at 304/558-2210.

Largest Pumpkin Weighing Contest

Contact Billy at 304/762-2452
or Dorin at 304/762-2010.

West Virginia State Fair Quick and Easy Beef Contest Winning Recipes

by Jean Smith, Director, Marketing and Development Division

The Fairs and Festivals season is quickly coming to an end! The 2005 State Fair of West Virginia is a wonderful place to experience several food contests and exhibits! Don't forget, there is still time to enter the food contests at the *W.Va. Honey Festival*, *W.Va. Black Walnut Festival* and *W.Va. Pumpkin Festival*. Call our office at 304/558-2210 for contest rules.

This month's recipes are from the *Quick and Easy Beef Contest* at the State Fair.

– Bon Appetite!

Recipes

Grilled Skirt Steak

First Place, Quick & Easy Beef Contest
Dexter James – Lewisburg, W.Va.

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|------------------------|---|
| 4 red skin potatoes | ½ stick butter |
| 3 pounds skirt steak | 2 tablespoons minced garlic |
| ¼ cup olive oil | 1 onion, chopped |
| Salt & pepper to taste | 1 each red, green & yellow bell peppers, cut into 1" strips |
| Garlic powder to taste | |

Boil potatoes in pot for 10 minutes. While potatoes are boiling, brush skirt steak with olive oil; season both sides of steak with salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in skillet, add steak, sear until both sides are brown, remove; set aside. Add butter (leave juices from steak in skillet). Cut red skin potatoes in quarters; add to skillet with minced garlic. Add bell peppers and chopped onion. Saute over medium heat until peppers are tender and onions are transparent.

Place steak on grill for 5 minutes over medium heat. Remove from grill. Slice steak into 1" strips. Arrange on plate; surround with potatoes, onion and pepper strips.

*Flank steak is an acceptable substitute if skirt steak is not available.

Recipes

Beef Strips with Pears & Cranberries

Second Place, Quick & Easy Beef Contest
Mary Holyman – White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ½ large red onion, thinly sliced | ½ cup fresh cranberries |
| 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped | 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar |
| 2 tablespoons dry red wine | ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice |
| 2 fresh, firm pears, peeled and diced | 4 beef tenderloin steaks, 1" thick |

Spray medium skillet with cooking spray; heat over medium-high heat. Cook onion, garlic and wine in skillet about 5 minutes. Stir frequently, until onion is tender, but not brown. Stir in remaining ingredients except beef. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered about 10 minutes, stirring frequently, until cranberries burst. Place in small bowl and set aside.

Cook beef in skillet over medium heat until desired tenderness. Let meat rest then cut into strips; serve with mixture in bowl.

See Governor's Cookie Basket Contest Recipes
in the October Market Bulletin issue.

Honey, continued from page 3

The American Beekeepers Federation sponsors an American Honey Queen and an American Honey Princess each year. Their mission, during their one year reign, is to travel across the nation educating the public about the importance of beekeeping and to increase the consumption of honey. The 2005 American Honey Queen is Sarah Kornfield and the American Honey Princess is Angela Fisher. The WVHF holds a W.Va. Honey Princess pageant each year. Young ladies who wish to enter must be between the ages of 8 and 10. To receive an application, call 304-485-6437 or 740-423-4889. The pageant is a fun activity that helps

educate youth about the importance of beekeeping.

In the United States alone there are over 300 different types of honey available which can make buying honey a little confusing. Each type of honey has a different flavor which can often reflect the floral source which it was derived from. West Virginia beekeepers produce over twelve different types of honey, most of which can be found at the West Virginia Honey Festival. The most common types of WV honey are Tulip Popular, Locust and Basswood which is sometimes called Linn. Honey that is purchased from the local grocery store is usually a blend of alfalfa or clover mixed with an imported honey. Consumers have often been misled or con-

fused by labels that read U.S. Grade A Honey or U.S. Fancy Honey. The term indicates that the honey contains not less than 81.4 percent solids and has a good flavor for the blend. The term U.S. Grade A Honey or U.S. Fancy Honey does not mean it was produced in the U.S. Starting in 2006, manufacturers will be required to state the country of origin of their products which will help consumers who are confused by the terms U.S. Grade A and U.S. Fancy. No imported honey will be found at the WVHF.

If you're looking for a really sweet weekend, then plan to attend the West Virginia Honey festival on September 10-11, at the city park in Parkersburg, W.Va. and celebrate National Honey Month.