



Ag MAILBAG

Questions should be emailed to: info@ag.state.wv.us or marketbulletin@ag.state.wv.us or mailed to: WVDA, Market Bulletin, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E, Charleston, WV 25305.

Q: I have heard that there is an insect attacking ash trees. We have two beautiful trees and would like to keep them healthy. Is there anything we can do to protect them? I have seen purple bags hanging on trees in Ohio. Is this something that would be helpful? If these would be helpful, where can we get them or something else?

~ Sharon Williams

A: Dear Sharon,

The ash pest you referred to in your email is an introduced pest (its name is the Emerald Ash Borer) that attacks and kills ash trees. I will forward your inquiry to Jody Wilson and she can contact you with additional information. You can learn more about this pest by visiting the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's website at www.wvagriculture.org/. On the right side of the homepage is a link to our emerald ash borer website. I invite you to visit the Plant Industries Division website by clicking on Plant Industries on the left side of the WVDA home page. There you may find other information of interest to you. Thank you for your inquiry and good luck preserving your ash trees.

Gary W. Gibson, Director
WVDA Plant Industries Division

GARDEN CALENDAR

~ JUNE ~

- June 5..... Seed pumpkins and winter squash
- June 6..... Plant celery
- June 7..... Monitor for garden pests. Build a high tunnel
- June 9..... Mulch garden to control weeds and conserve moisture
- June 10..... Plant tomatoes. Seed bush beans
- June 11..... Begin control measures for squash vine borer and cucumber beetle
- June 12..... Seed winter squash
- June 13..... Seed corn and beets
- June 14..... Seed pumpkins
- June 15..... Begin bagworm control
- June 16..... Plant peppers. Prune raspberries
- June 18..... Prune spring-flowering shrubs
- June 19..... Seed pole limas and snap beans
- June 22..... Renovate strawberries and last harvest
- June 23..... Pinch back garden mums
- June 24..... Treat lawn for white grubs
- June 25..... End asparagus harvest
- June 26..... Prune pine trees
- June 27..... Turn compost
- June 30..... Plant late tomatoes

AILING ECONOMY DOESN'T HURT FFA HAM, BACON AND EGG SALES

An unstable national economy had no apparent effect on the annual FFA State Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale, held in Charleston March 9.

"Thanks to the continuing generosity of the bidders who support these educational programs, West Virginia FFA students will have money to put toward next year's projects, or money to help offset the cost of college," said Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass. "Nearly all the bidders show up year after year, and their support has helped a generation of young farmers."



Proceeds from the state show totaled \$36,769, nearly \$750 more than the 2008 sale, and the fifth highest total in the history of the event. More than \$1.1 million has been raised since it was started in 1941. Numerous county sales have provided an untold number of additional dollars for students.

County sales in 2009 also remained strong, according to Gene Walker, a special assistant with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) who works with school FFA programs.

The Grand Champion Ham at the state sale was produced by Nick Billeter of Tyler Consolidated High School and purchased by the Tate-Porter Family Automall for \$3,325. Jenessa Kinkade of Valley High School produced the Grand Champion Bacon, which brought \$1,750 from Gunnoe Farms LLC. Trevor Cummings of Roane County High School sold his Grand Champion Eggs to the Tate-Porter Family Automall for \$2,000.

Kelley Flesher of Tyler Consolidated sold her Reserve Champion ham for \$2,200 to Gunnoe Sausage Co. The Reserve Champion Bacon was produced by Ava Morris of Valley High and brought \$1,800 from Kroger Mid-Atlantic. Brandon Ash of Roane County High sold his Reserve Champion Eggs to Fas-Chek for \$2,500.

The show is sponsored annually by the Governor's Office, the WVDA, West Virginia Department of Education and Carhartt. Ronald Morrison Auction Services and Resource Marketing, Inc. donated auctioneering services. For more information, visit www.wvffa.org.



Photos

Top: Champion Ham (19 pounds, \$175/pound, \$3,325) produced by Nick Billeter, Tyler Consolidated High School, and purchased by Don Tate of Tate-Porter Family Automall.

Middle: Champion Bacon (7 pounds, \$250/pound, \$1,750) produced by Jenessa Kinkade, Valley High School, and purchased by RG Gunnoe Farms, LLC. Joy Gunnoe pictured.

Bottom: Champion Eggs (white, \$2,000). Produced by Trevor Cummings, Roane County High School, and purchased by Tate-Porter Family Automall, Don Tate (left) and Mark Porter (right).

~ See Reserve Champion Photos in July Market Bulletin ~

WVU-Extension Service Offers Cattle Farmer Financial Assistance Program in North Central West Virginia

Increasing input cost of fertilizer, fuel, machinery and feed are forcing livestock producers to consider more economical farming methods. West Virginia producers cannot cover these increasing input costs by handling large volumes of livestock due to the small size of their farms. Typical West Virginia cattle farms in North Central West Virginia average 124 acres of farmland and consist of approximately 17 cows. State farmers could increase income by adding sheep to their farming operation. When a farmer adds sheep to a cattle only grazing operation, it is referred to multi-species grazing.

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