

2010 Equine Events Calendar

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) publishes a statewide **Equine Events Calendar** during the show season. To list your club or organization's event(s), please fill out the listing form and return it by **February 1, 2010**. Any entries received after the deadline will not appear in the *Equine Events Calendar*. This deadline will ensure calendar availability by April 1.

Only one event listing per form; if additional forms are necessary, please duplicate. Fill listing form out completely (we must have a complete and accurate address and telephone number). Only the name of the contact person and phone number will be published. **All event listings must be held in WV, unless the event is sponsored by a WV Equine Organization.**

Date: _____ Time: _____

Event: _____

Sponsor: _____

Place/Location: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Note: If your event date or location changes please notify the Marketing and Development Division, 304-558-2210, at least 60 days in advance so the correct information will appear in the appropriate issue of the *Market Bulletin*.

Return by February 1, 2010 to: David Hannon, Equine Specialist, WVDA, Marketing and Development Division, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV 25305-0178; Fax: 304/558-2270; email: dhannon@ag.state.wv.us.

GUS VIEW *continued from page 2*

My guess is the state only needs one-half of the deer it has now. A blogger commenting on the Daily Mail editorial had a good idea to recruit more deer hunters: reduce the cost of non-resident hunting licenses. In this troubled economy, some out-of-state hunters do not have the resources to pay for the license. Another idea is to have a 'free day' of hunting for does and let them be harvested for food. On my farm we've harvested 35-40 does because the hunters on my farm want that prized buck.

On the local front, WVDA staff has been working to resolve a difference of opinion between the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) and a new poultry producer in Hampshire County concerning highway entrances. The poultry grower is planning to build two poultry houses and needs a new entrance to the property. The WVDOH's opinion is that this should be classified as a commercial entrance. Essentially, the WVDOH is requiring an 80-foot entrance. Pilgrim's Pride requires a 40-foot entrance on all new construction. I believe the issue will be resolved, as a new rule will be put forth for consideration before the Legislature which will permit operators to classify farm entrances as agricultural not commercial. This will result in considerable savings in permits to the farm community. I will keep you briefed on the outcome of the issue.

We receive all sorts of questions and requests from individuals on numerous topics. Many of them we can resolve, but I need your help on this one. A young man who recently completed his master's degree in biology at Marshall University contacted me via email. He is doing his thesis work studying salamanders in caves. In his research he found several scientific references to salamander aggregations in spring houses. He wants to delve into these findings further and is looking for spring houses that might still be intact in the Putnam County area or nearby. If any of you in the area have a spring house or know of a landowner that wouldn't mind letting this

student visit a spring house on their land, please contact my office at 304-558-3200. We'll be glad to pass the information along to him. Any assistance to this young man in achieving his goals will be appreciated.

On a sad note, I must recognize the death of Norman Borlaug, an agricultural scientist considered the father of the "green revolution," and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient for his role in combating world hunger, thus saving hundreds of millions of lives. Dr. Borlaug died in Texas this past September at the age of 95. Dr. Borlaug caught my attention in the 1970s for his contributions to high-yield crop varieties and bringing other agricultural innovations to the developing world. A September 13, 2009, *Associated Press* report noted many experts credit the green revolution with averting global famine during the second half of the 20th Century and saving perhaps one billion lives. I was honored to know this individual. He had a true belief and perseverance in his efforts to provide food to the people of the world. The report went on to note that "...he had people helping him, but he was the driving force." People now have better nutrition through his efforts in genetics and bioengineering to increase food production.

It's been hectic on the farm as we continually repair fencing, and we've just completed running 4,000 feet of water line and three water tanks to three pasture fields. We've had a real deficiency in water to these areas which made pasture rotation difficult. My son, Tom, has handled all this work, as I have been busy with Department business. Fortunately, Anna Lee has been travelling with me this month. It's great to have her along.

We're making preparations for the annual gathering at the Douglass farm during the week of Thanksgiving. We thoroughly enjoy having our friends and loved ones home to hunt and celebrate the season's harvest. I hope you are able to enjoy the holiday with your loved ones, too. Have a Happy Thanksgiving. _____

