

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 Basis of All Wealth is Agriculture"

March 2010



Gus' View . . .

The variability of the weather cycles has caught up with us in the form of the heavy snowfall we experienced in February in West Virginia and the Northeast. In early February, I was in Washington, D.C., attending the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Midyear Legislative meeting when the city was paralyzed by a blizzard. Travel came to a halt. Snow removal on sidewalks was low priority at the time, so people were walking in the streets where snowplows were trying to work. City officials had to put the snow in parking lots and when the lots became full, the snow was trucked and dumped in the Chesapeake Bay.

As you can imagine, there was heavy use of snow melting chemicals which no doubt included the granular form of nitrates. These chemicals work remarkably well for melting snow at cold temperatures, and are widely used on airport runways and highways. I wonder where the balance is between adding nutrients directly to the Bay and getting commerce moving again.

I maintain that if you removed all agriculture and livestock nutrient loading in the Bay watershed, there would still be high levels of nutrients and nitrates in the waters due to other sources. We either have to find substitutes for these necessary chemicals, or tolerate deterioration of the waters in order to satisfy the

Winter sticking around as blizzards blanket Northeast

needs of the millions of people living in the Chesapeake Bay area.

The heavy snowfall in our State's mountainous regions and the Eastern Panhandle took a toll on the agriculture industry here. I received a report on February 10 from staff that two buildings, and a new hydroponic greenhouse, ready for sets, had collapsed from the heavy snow. In surrounding states, three poultry houses in Virginia and one dairy barn in Maryland collapsed. One of the biggest problems was transportation, and supplies of gas ran out in some areas.

Fortunately, the WVDA endeavors to keep the school system food warehouses fully stocked in the event of emergencies. The Food Distribution Section was placed on alert by Homeland Security in case we had to take emergency supplies into the affected areas of the state. I am always concerned with the potential for flooding following heavy snowfall.

The month of March is a busy one for farm and school activities, such as the FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale. The sale will be held in Charleston on March 15, at 7 p.m. in Building 7, Main Capitol Complex. There will be similar events in other counties, so please try to attend one to support our youth and our future agriculture leaders. We presently have 24 counties with meat curing facilities for a total of 26 facilities (Hardy and Wetzel Counties have two facilities each), and a total of 30 schools participate in the program. Blueprints are pending for new facilities at Cameron and West Union. Most of the facilities are located in the eastern and north central parts of the state. All the facilities are fully state inspected and product is legal for retail.

Performance tested bull sales are held in March. The Wardensville sale is March 25, starting at noon. The southern sale will be held at the Jack Crank Farm, 7312 Kanawha Valley Road, Henderson, on March 27 starting at 11 a.m. The reports I've reviewed indicate the bulls are performing well.

Speaking of beef, the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association has selected its 2010 West Virginia Beef Expo Queen. I congratulate

late Amanda Hannon, a 17-year-old junior at Point Pleasant High, and president of the Mason County Vocational FFA Chapter. Her essay, "Taking the Lead with Beef" helped her win the crown.

It is a joy to see West Virginia farms recognized nationally for their excellence. The Evans Poultry farm in Dorcas was selected by U.S. Poultry and Egg for the Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award. This announcement was made during the International Poultry Expo on January 27, 2010. Only five farms were selected nationally. I want to congratulate the Evans family on their recognition and the recognition they have brought to West Virginia.

I commend our young adults involved in culinary programs and contests to promote culinary arts. At one time, FHA (Future Homemakers of America) taught these and other skills to high school students. Now, ProStart programs are filling the gap left by FHA's demise. Donna Wilkes, ProStart Coordinator for the West Virginia Office of Hospitality and Education, says up to 1,400 students across West Virginia are involved in the 56 ProStart 1 and ProStart 2 programs for junior and senior high school students. The ProStart certificate of achievement is nationally recognized so credits can be transferred to a post-secondary program for students pursuing a culinary career. Locally, Riverside High School in Charleston and St. Albans High School has ProStart programs. In an interview in the Charleston Daily Mail, Ashley Stricker, who teaches the program at St. Albans High, gives some of the reasons why the programs are gaining recognition – West Virginia is full of hospitality and tourism jobs and the popularity of Food Network shows.

I received a flyer of interest in the mail regarding Farm Credit Country Mortgages. Farm Credit of the Virginias is a farmer-owned cooperative which provides over a billion dollars in financing to more than 9,000 farmers, agribusinesses and rural homeowners in 96 counties in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

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WVDA MISSION STATEMENT . . . The mission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is to protect plant, animal and human health and the state's food supply through a variety of scientific and regulatory programs; to provide vision, strategic planning and emergency response for agricultural and other civil emergencies; to promote industrial safety and protect consumers through educational and regulatory programs; and to foster economic growth by promoting West Virginia agriculture and agribusinesses throughout the state and abroad.

Gus View ...

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What caught my attention was the number of loans made to young, beginning, and small farm operations, which make up 85 percent of their total customers. It is encouraging to know younger farmers are coming on the scene.

Livestock markets have been on the decline in West Virginia for several years. At one time we had 30 active stockyards in the state. Unfortunately, the historic Elkins stockyard is set for demolition, which will leave us only eight active, operating auction markets. In its heyday, the stockyard handled as many as 2,000 cattle a day. Owner Bus Conaway said he just can't keep the landmark in business due to the high maintenance costs of the facility. His grandfather bought the stockyard in 1946 and a local radio station even aired the auctions live. I am sorry to see this one go the wayside.

For those of you interested in organic farming, you may be interested to check with your local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office about funding opportunities. The 2008 Farm Bill gave NRCS authority to provide organic growers an opportunity to compete for funds in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Successful applicants will be required to develop an Organic System Plan before installation of conservation practices to help achieve organic production certification. Growers already certified as organic are eligible for financial assistance to install practices after they submit their existing plan. Applications must be submitted by March 12, 2010, to be considered for funding this year. Additional information on the 2010 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/.

The USDA has named Alfred J. Lewis to serve as State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). He is from Beverly, W.Va., is well known in the state, and has served as executive director of the Randolph/High County FSA Office for over 20 years.

The three appointees to USDA's FSA State Committee, which will oversee the Agency's activities in West Virginia, are Marjorie (Marge) H. Burke (Chairperson) from Sand Fork, Gilmer County; G. Warren Mickey from Charles Town; and Harry K. Perkins from Frankford.

Burke served on the Board of Governors for Glenville State College, served in the House of Delegates, and has been active in raising and showing cattle, especially at the State Fair. Mickey has been a teacher for more than 10

years, and Jefferson County Director of Federal Programs for 8 years. Perkins has been farming for over 50 years. Perk Farm is a certified organic dairy and turkey operation. Perkins has also been active in state vocational programs and has served on the FSA County Committee for 9 years. My congratulations to this esteemed committee.

Despite the snowy weather in February; we did not have any major problems on our farm. A lot of folks tell me they are ordering their garden seeds early because of reports of shortages. Suppliers anticipate a greater demand this year, as people want to raise their own food. Anna Lee is doing well and we're looking forward spring to spring, warmer weather, and especially a great growing season.



WVDA to Sponsor West Virginia Horse Expo

According to the West Virginia Horse Industry Economic Impact Study done by the West Virginia University Extension Service, the West Virginia horse industry is a \$500 million dollar industry. The study indicates that there are over 50,000 horses in the State. Until now, West Virginia horse enthusiasts had to travel out of state to attend an expo that would allow them to network with other horse enthusiasts, see the latest in equine products, and promote their farms, horses and horse-related products and services.

The West Virginia Horse Expo promotes trading within the state and brings consumers from surrounding states to trade in West Virginia; thus, growing and strengthening the West Virginia horse industry economy and promoting agritourism. In support of these objectives, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has signed on as a sponsor of the West Virginia Horse Expo.

The 2010 Expo will be held April 16-18, at the W.Va. State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg. It will feature a Cowboy Cook-off, Pro Day, Extreme Cowboy Race™, the West Virginia Trainer's Challenge and a benefit country music concert by Taylor Made. There will also be variety of horsemanship clinics, seminars and demonstrations for the beginner to experienced equestrian. Included in this year's roster of clinicians are West Virginia's Woody Taylor (Reining), Louise Trimble (English Equitation), Jack Clark (Halter), and Barbara Volk (Equine Podiatry). Clinics on Ranch Horse Versatility, Barrel Racing, Trailer Loading, Bits & Bridling, and Desensitizing will also be presented.

Expo, continued on page 7

Ten-year study reveals good water quality in most Eastern Panhandle streams

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) "Potomac Headwaters Water Quality Report" shows that water quality in the state's Eastern Panhandle is in good condition overall, and has been relatively stable over the past 10 years.

The report was compiled from more than 25,000 water samples gathered from ten sub-watersheds between July 1998 and June 2008 and documented levels of nutrients, sediment and fecal coliform. An abbreviated version of the report is available at www.wvagriculture.org.

WVDA began its water quality testing program in 1998, shortly after seven streams in the region were placed on the state's list of "impaired waterways" for fecal coliform contamination. "What this report shows is that – contrary to the fears of some – agricultural practices did not kill our streams," said West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass.

He noted that Chesapeake Bay Program models show that agriculture has achieved 50 percent of the goals laid out for it, while urban sources of pollution currently stand at more than negative 60 percent of their goals because of continued sprawl and development.

"Voluntary agricultural conservation programs implemented in the mid-1990s have been shown to protect water quality," Commissioner Douglass added.

Those programs focused on implementing best management practices (BMPs) such as nutrient management plans, litter and manure storage structures, relocation of livestock feeding areas, and buffers that reduce runoff from farmland.

Farmers in the Eastern Panhandle have spent millions of their own dollars on cost-share programs. Thanks to those efforts, the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River was removed from the impaired streams list in

2002, one of the few such success stories in the country.

However, farmers in West Virginia's rural panhandle counties are facing a new federal regulatory initiative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the form of a new total maximum daily load (TMDL) program intended to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

President Barack Obama signed an executive order in May 2009 calling for a substantial acceleration of efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay. States remain responsible for implementing pollution reduction measures, but EPA may take over state programs that do not meet deadlines or that do not result in the pollution reductions sought.

"I find it fitting that the State Seal of West Virginia features a farmer and a coal miner," said Commissioner Douglass. "The agricultural community is about to find itself in the same position that the coal industry has been in for the past year – defending itself for producing essential goods in an efficient and dependable manner."

Commissioner Douglass added that farmers need to continue to build upon the environmental progress that they have already made. "Farmers were the first environmental stewards. They know better than anyone that their economic well-being is tied directly to the quality of the natural resources available to them," said Commissioner Douglass.

"My fear is that the relatively small number of farmers will be a far easier target for EPA than the rest of the nearly 17 million mostly urban residents of the watershed. As small farms are forced out of business, it will be American consumers who suffer through higher food prices and an increased dependence on foreign food producers," he said.

Last year, the Six Shooter's Mounted Cowboy Shooting demonstration and the Draft Horse & Mule Association's pulling demonstration were big crowd pleasers. These exciting demonstrations will be returning in 2010, along with the Breed and Stallion demonstrations representing breeds from Friesians to Miniature Donkeys.

West Virginia-based trainers have submitted applications for the West Virginia Trainer's Challenge, a colt start competition. The trainers selected for the 2010 challenge are Bobby Knight, Dan Hull and Robert (Junior) McLaughlin, Jr. These trainers will have four and one half hours over three days to train a horse that has never been ridden in front of the audience and judges. In the finale Sunday afternoon, the trainers will have to ride their

trained horse through an obstacle course.

The Extreme Cowboy Race™, as seen on RFD-TV, will challenge riders to navigate through 14 obstacles while being timed and judged on horsemanship. The event is sanctioned by the Extreme Cowboy Association. It is open to everyone. Riders may compete in youth, novice and pro divisions. In addition to prizes, winners of this competition will gain points towards the Extreme Cowboy Race™ World Championship.

Of course the heart of the Expo is the trade show. Vendors of all things equine, from t-shirts to horse trailers, will have displays of their goods and services. Horse breeders will also have displays in the Horse Pavilion to promote their clubs, stallions and farms. Through the support of the WVDA, all West Virginia-based breeders who want to have a horse and booth in the Horse Pavilion (including

the stallion pavilion) will receive a discount.

Another highlight of the Expo is the Saturday Evening Showcase. The showcase will start with the Parade of Horses followed by a trick horse demonstration and a concert by country music group, Taylor Made.

Don't forget to bring your appetite to the Expo for the West Virginia Cowboy Cook-off – an outdoor beef grilling competition done in true cowboy fashion. Attendees of the Expo will be able to purchase sampling tickets to try the contestant's entrees.

For more details about the Expo, visit www.whorsexpo.com or call (800)682-1552.

For more information on the Equine Industry in West Virginia, contact WVDA Equine Specialist David Hannon at 304-558-2210 or dhannon@ag.state.wv.us.

31st Annual Consignment Farm Machinery Auction & Board of Education Surplus Sale

Sponsored by Ravenswood FFA, YFA & Boosters Club
Surplus Sale, March 26, 6 p.m.
Consignment Auction, March 27, 9 a.m.
Jackson Co. Fairgrounds
Cottageville, W.Va.
Contact Tara Tatalovich, 273-3501 or Jason Miihlbach, 273.0687.

Minneapolis Moline '67 G1000 tractor w/504 diesel eng., 10' blade, good cond., \$800. Bobbie Golliday, 2421 Alpine Lake Rd., Terra Alta, 26764; 789-6449.

Kubota M7950 tractor, 4WD, 79 hp, quick-attach loader, bucket/bale spear, 3 remotes, 4-post canopy, \$15,000. David Goodin, Rt. 2, Box 294B, Mannington, 26582; 795-4304.

Int. 444 tractor, gas, \$3,500; Ford 8N tractor, \$2,500/obo; Woods belly mower for 140 tractor, \$525. Thomas Grimes, Rt. 1, Box 44, Green Bank, 24944; 456-3020.

Ford 8N tractor, \$2,500. A. Gwinn, P.O. Box 1, Piney View, 25906; 252-3259.

Kuhn '08 mower/conditioner, \$12,500; Kenneth Hall, Rt. 1, Box 94, Harrisville, 26362; 869-3685; evenings.

Ford 16" plows, 3- and 5-bottom, \$500/ea.; NH 451 mowing machine; Toros 4-spool hyd. tedder; 7' blower, \$1,500/ea. Robert Haynes, 240 Haynes Lane, Princeton, 24740; 487-1633.

Oliver 88 plow, pull type, two 16's w/new plow pts., hyd. sod buster, \$300; Int. 35 9' rake, new teeth, \$1,800; Vermeer 3-pt. hitch round bale unroller; bale spear for hyd. front bucket, \$300/ea. Charles Henderson, 256 Meadville Rd., Friendly, 26164; 758-4316.

Ford '57 600 tractor w/501 rear mower, good cond., excel. tires, more, \$2,450/both. J. Hill, 305 Cottage Ave., Weston, 26452; 369-4538; jimbohil@aol.com.

Gravely walk-behind, elec. start, brush hog, \$500. John Hyde, Rt. 3, Philippi, 26416; 739-4428.

Front blade for D-160 & D-200 wheel horse tractors, 56" wide, excel. cond., \$150. Austin Kennedy, HC 61, Box 17, Paynesville, 24873; 967-7563.

Ford 3000 tractor, \$4,350; brush hog, \$350; JD disk, \$400; Freeman front-end loader, \$850; \$5,600/all. Emory Landis, HC 86, Box 48, Green Springs, 26722; 492-5281.

Cultivator: riding McCormick-Deering \$125; walk-behind, \$40; both horse drawn. R. Lee, Rt. 2, Box 186E, French Creek, 26218; 472-7176.

Shaver post driver, 10', 3-pt. hitch, metal post attach incl., \$1,750. Aaron Livengood, Rt. 6, Box 6638, Keyser, 26726; 301-707-7894.

Hay rake, \$75; mowing machine, \$100; both horse drawn; 3-pt. hitch scoop, excel. cond., \$180. Norman Lucas, Rt. 1, Box 1390, Wayne, 25570; 525-2394.

Gravely walk-behind tractor: older w/mower, \$500; '95, \$4,500; MF '95 240 tractor, 2WD, front bucket, chains, good cond., \$15,000; 3-pt hitch disk harrows; 14" plow pr. w/3-pt. hitch, \$350/ea. Kenneth Martin, 136 Circle Dr., Cross Lanes, 25313; 776-7693.

MF '50 tractor, P/S, 2-stage clutch, spin out rims, good tires, \$2,850; Ford 801 Curry side mower, \$500; Ford 501 rear sickle bar mower, \$400; 3-pt. hitch spreader, excel. cond., \$350. Paul Martin, Rt. 2, Box 58A, Bridgeport, 26330; 842-0666.

Int. 300 tractor, \$2,000. Robert Matheny, 113 Mineral Wells Hts., Mineral Wells, 26150; 489-1474.

JD 1020 gas tractor, 40 hp gas eng., wet brakes, good tires/cond., \$4,950. Eli Meadows, 365 Three Crosses Rd., Camp Creek, 25820; 222-4030.

Case Int. 8420 baler, barn kept, 3/2x4 bales, excel. cond., \$6,000. Paul Miller, 148 Private Dr., Sissonville, 25320; 988-1318; after 6 p.m.

Int. 966 tractor, good cond., \$6,500; JD 1219 haybine, good cond., \$3,000; 4' disk w/3-pt. hitch, \$400; hay tedder, M&W pull type, PTO, excel. cond., \$1,000. Kevin Minear, 1230 Murraysville Rd., Murraysville, 26164; 273-4196.

20th Annual Agriculture Workshop Hosted by The Western Conservation District

March 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Lunch will be Provided
W.Va. State Farm Museum
Point Pleasant, W.Va.
Contact WCD Office,
675-3054; wcd@wvca.us.

Mulch transplanter, mechanical, model 900, excel. cond., \$2,800. D. Neyman, 105 Neyman Lane, Independence, 26374; 864-3529; donnatomsfarm@frontiernet.net.

NH 355 grinder/mixer, excel. cond., \$6,500; Kuhn hay tedder, 2-spool, good cond., \$750. Hollis Ours, HC 80, Box 175, Maysville, 26833; 749-7288; ourst@cit-link.net.

JD grain drill, 9-hoe w/tractor hitch, \$300. Harley Poling, Rt. 1, Box 270A, Moatsville, 26405; 457-2158.

NH 846 4x5 round baler w/hyd. tie, rebuilt w/new chains/belts/tires, '03 repaint, shed kept, \$3,000. Joe Rayburn, 1446 Belle Rd., Point Pleasant, 25550; 675-4516.

NI manure spreader, 115 bu., PTO driven, good cond., \$2,000. Sam Roth, 4274 Seneca Trail, Eglon, 26716; 698-9044.

Bale grabber, excel. cond., \$1,450. Reeder Sams, 17278 Staunton Turnpike, Walker, 26180; 628-3666.

AC disk, 12' transport, \$1,200; NI side-delivery rake, \$1,000; Bush Hog w/7' brush hog; Danuser hyd. post digger, 4" & 9" augers, backhoe/front-end loader mountable, \$2,000/ea. Tom Sanetrick, RR 1, Box 53, Moatsville, 26405; 457-3703.

Krone round baler, 4x5 bales, string or wrap, \$9,000. Mark Sissler, 919 Sissler Rd., Terra Alta, 26764; 789-6438.

JD 2-row corn planter, good cond., \$650. Leland Starkey, RR 1, Box 215, Glenwood, 25520; 762-2434.

Int. 6' brush hog w/slip clutch, 3 blades, \$650/obo. Bob Suan, Rt. 2, Box 237, Lost Creek, 26385; 612-3237.

Equipment Sales, continued on page 8

WVDA Offers No Cost Lime Sampling

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division (READ) wants the consumers in W.Va. to know they have an opportunity for free testing of lime, fertilizer, or seed products purchased in the state. The WVDA wants to ensure the consumers are purchasing a quality product that meets their needs and the label guarantee.

The READ regulatory officer in your district will sample any of the above products at no cost to you. After you have completed a soil analysis, and ordered your product, we can sample your lime, fertilizer, or seed on the farm after delivery, **but before** you spread the product. By order of Chapter 19 of the WV Code, a monetary penalty is assessed on lime and fertilizer violations. What does that mean to the consumer? That means when **we sample** your prod-

uct, and it is found deficient, you receive the penalty paid by the company. The only catch, **WVDA must collect the official sample, not the consumer.** We cannot assess a penalty on a sample collected and sent to the WVDA by the consumer. We urge you to contact us for all your lime, fertilizer, and seed sampling needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about your lime, fertilizer, or seed, contact READ at 304-558-2227.