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FARM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Accepting applications NOW until Nov. 3, 2023!

Limited to 15 Fellows per year.

The Farm Fellowship offers an in-depth intensive training experience that combines classroom training with hands-on practical experience and mentoring through on-farm apprenticeships and ‘learn to earn’ opportunities in four micro-credentials. This unique experience offered as part of Eastern’s Agriculture Workforce Trainings provides agribusiness coaching support and mentorship throughout the one-year program.

Fellows must complete a Farm Business Management Certificate, conduct an assigned 40-hour agribusiness internship, complete at least one of three additional micro-credentials including: • Agribusiness Diversification and Value Adding • Livestock Management Systems • Horticulture Management Systems.

SUCCESSFUL FELLOWS COMPLETING THESE REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL YEAR WILL EARN $700 AND RESPECTIVE CERTIFICATIONS.

Accepted Fellows will be notified by Dec. 5 to confirm their one-year program (1/1/2024-12/31/2024). Fellows are paired with a mentor based on interests designated in application.

Email aginnovation@easternwv.edu or call 304-434-8000 ext. 9606
I hope each of you are enjoying the summer weather. July turned hot, with several beneficial thunderstorms.

Please consider the following agricultural issues.

The FDA has completed its review of Norfolk Plant Sciences’ genetically engineered purple tomato. The high antioxidant variety will first be marketed to restaurants. It is believed that Norfolk will also market seeds for this variety to gardeners, greenhouses, and other outlets in 2024. Researchers from the United Kingdom derived the tomato’s antioxidant property from two genes found in the edible snapdragon flower. Additional work is being done to incorporate the genes into blackberries and eggplants.

The Packer’s Fresh Trends report for 2023 revealed that over 81 percent of consumers believe that knowing the stories of produce growers is very important or somewhat important. High-income consumers and families with children were most likely to rate knowledge of a grower as very important. Younger consumers are generally more interested in the background of growers.

In other food news, the American Food for American Schools Act has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. This legislation would require local school districts to buy domestically produced food. The bill would require waivers from USDA to purchase foreign sourced food only if domestic produced food is not available or is cost prohibitive.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has sent a letter to President Biden on the proposed EPA rules on heavy and medium duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards. The letter cautioned that EPA’s proposal for 2027 and beyond will inhibit the marketplace by restricting consumer choice. The proposal will also prevent the identification of the most efficient, lowest cost opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA’s own data indicate the vehicle technology since 2004 has reduced common pollutants by more than 90 percent in heavy duty vehicles and buses. EPA projects that by 2050 there will be over 47 million battery, electric, or plug-in hybrid vehicles. AFBF is requesting that EPA consider a broad range of emission reducing transportation pathways and not just place emphasis on electric vehicle development.

AFBF has partnered with 20 other agriculture, forestry, and nutrition groups to urge passage of the 2023 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill for America’s Families: Sustaining Our Future program is intended to bring together stakeholders who recognize the profound importance of a strong farm economy to the overall success of the American public. The campaign will highlight five areas: food security, job creation, conservation, risk management, and hunger.

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has approved FY 2024 agriculture appropriation bill of $26 billion, which is $8 billion greater than the House bill. The Senate version calls for $3.8 billion for agricultural research, $1.17 billion for APHIS, $1.2 billion for FSIS, and $1.21 billion for FSA. The Senate has also proposed a defense budget of $823 billion and a homeland security budget of $56.9 billion.

In state news, the National Telecommunications & Information Administration has announced $1.2 billion in federal money for broadband expansion. Political leaders believe this will expand health care, education, and remote work opportunities in West Virginia.

Legislative interim meetings will resume in August. Certainly, it is none too early to start evaluating primary election candidates for governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, and agriculture commissioner. West Virginians will also select two new members of the state supreme court. Justice John Hutchinson will not seek reelection. Justice Haley Bunn will also be up for a 12-year term in 2024. The nonpartisan election will be decided in the 2024 May primary.
The east wing of the State Capitol is home to the West Virginia Supreme Court. Engraved on the walls of the court chamber are these words of President Thomas Jefferson: “The true foundation of republican government is the equal right of every citizen in his person and property and in their management.” The supreme court seats are very important and deserve special review by voters.

Lastly, we Americans enjoyed the liberty of celebrating our independence on July 4. This liberty is second to none in the world. I am reminded of what Justice William O. Douglas said about our liberty: “The liberties of none are safe unless the liberties of all are protected.” Douglas also said, “The Constitution is not neutral. It was designed to take the government off the backs of people.”

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Cabell County

Cabell County Farm Bureau Announces Scholarship Recipients
Since 2005, the Cabell County Scholarship Committee has been awarding funds to FFA and 4-H members choosing to continue their education. Whether it be a program for a 4-year degree, an associate degree or a technical certification, we believe in investing in students who are willing to work hard to achieve their goals.

Every year the Cabell County scholarship committee pours over applications submitted for the annual scholarship process. This year two students stood out in the process. Each student will be awarded a $1000.00 scholarship to further their education.

Chloe Irwin, daughter of Kevin and Staci Irwin of Milton, WV will be attending West Virginia State University this fall. Her career path is Agriculture Education/Business. Chloe is an active member in FFA and 4-H. She recently was elected as the 2023-2024 WV FFA Southwestern Region VP at the WV FFA State Convention.

Apphia Welker, daughter of Nick and Keturah Amandus of Milton, WV will be attending Mountwest Community and Technical College this fall. Her career path is Nursing. She will do her pre-requisites and pre-nursing program at Mountwest.

Congratulations and Best wishes to both of you!!!
of museums in the city and the Mercer County Farm Bureau Agriculture Museum was a big draw to the event. The Farm Bureau provided a team of draft horses and a wagon to give rides through the streets to over 100 visitors.

A display of antique gas engines was on display and operating along with a Model T truck and a moonshine still. Several members volunteered to help with answering questions to the tourists.

Roane County
Ag Field Day a Success!

The Roane County Farm Bureau partnered with WVU Extension in Roane County and the Roane County FFA to host another successful Roane County 3rd Grade Ag Field Day on May 18, 2023. Thanks to Farm Bureau members, Jim & Freida Wood all the county 3rd grade students were able to visit a working farm and gain valuable information that the WVU Extension had put together in 14 learning stations run by Roane County FFA members. It was a beautiful, educational, and fun day for all that participated. Many of our partners and individuals in the community brought or sent animals and equipment. Special thanks to those folks and Little Kanawha Conservation District, Carl and Carrie Brainard, and JSC Enterprises, Inc. The Roane County Farm Bureau members volunteered at the event, feeding the FFA members and adult helpers and supporting the Roane Jackson Technical Center’s Pro-Start Program by ordering delicious, locally-made cookies for dessert.
20th Annual

**Friends of West Virginia Agriculture GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Bel Meadow Golf Club
September 14, 2023

*Shot Gun Start at 1 pm
Awards and BBQ to follow!*

By participating in the “Friends of WV Agriculture” Golf Tournament, you will be lending your support to the West Virginia Farm Bureau Foundation’s efforts to increase the general public’s agricultural literacy.

The WVFB Foundation, along with the WVU Extension Service and the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, hold the Summer Agriculture Institute. This is a two day conference that promotes agriculture to the state’s teachers.

The WVFB Foundation’s Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab is currently traveling the state teaching elementary students about agriculture. We hope that through the support of people like you, we can continue to increase agriculture literacy! For more information, please call (304)472-2080 Ext. 302.

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**FARM BILL FOR AMERICA’S FAMILIES**

*Sustaining our future.*
Big US Supreme Court Wins for West Virginia, Nation

The U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up its latest term with four climactic conclusions, issuing decisions in four big cases—in which West Virginia played a key role. These decisions are vital to the true meaning of our Constitutional Republic, and protected the rights of the American people as spelled out in our Constitution.

After those rulings, the Supreme Court also overturned a lower court’s hold on the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. I filed an amicus brief asking the Supreme Court to uphold Section 324 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 to restart the project’s stalled construction.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is vital to the survival of American energy independence and affects thousands of jobs in West Virginia—its completion is also critical to our national security, the urgent need is for it to be completed as soon as possible.

As your Attorney General, it is my job to represent the state in the Supreme Court in cases like these, and I will not hesitate to fight for the interests of the people of West Virginia. Just before the Mountain Valley Pipeline decision, the Court ruled on four cases West Virginia took part in.

First, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action (Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College) at public universities and private colleges that take federal funds, ruling that race-based college admissions are unconstitutional—a decision that will effectively end affirmative action in college admissions.

West Virginia joined a 19-state coalition led by Oklahoma that argued federal law prohibits universities from discriminating against Asian-American applicants in their admissions processes, and that discrimination based on race in higher education admissions at public colleges is unlawful. Racial quotas are wrong. Colleges and universities should judge prospective students on their merits. It is also important for colleges to ensure true diversity on campuses by focusing on socioeconomic status, which would help West Virginians of modest means get into the schools they want to attend.

Then there was Groff v. DeJoy, which gave Americans a broader right to religious accommodations in the workplace. Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, businesses have to accommodate the religious practices of their employees so long as doing so does not cause an “undue hardship.”

I co-led a 22-state coalition in an amicus brief in February, which supported the case involving Gerald Groff, an evangelical Christian who faithfully observes Sunday Sabbath. He was a mail carrier in Pennsylvania when the United States Postal Service signed an agreement with Amazon in 2013 to deliver packages on Sundays and holidays.

Groff resigned in 2019 after USPS refused to grant him a blanket exemption from Sunday shifts.

The Supreme Court ruling was a welcome win. People should not have to choose between their jobs and their religion.

In another case where I joined a 17-state coalition, the Supreme Court ruled the HEROES Act does not authorize the Secretary of Education to issue mass cancellation of student loans—a whopping $400 billion in outstanding federal student loans.

I would point out that SCOTUS relied in part on the major-questions doctrine and West Virginia v. EPA—the Supreme Court held that Congress did not empower the President to “seize the power of the Legislature” on this issue. This was not just a win for the rule of law, it also ensured the proper balance of powers under the Constitution, under which the President cannot simply make law by executive fiat.

While we are all sympathetic to people who took out exorbitant loans, it was wrong and unlawful for President Biden to promise something he had no authority over.

From the Attorney General

Patrick Morrisey, Attorney General of West Virginia
Finally, the Supreme Court decided on 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, which defended the First Amendment rights of business owners. I was part of a 20-state coalition that filed an amicus brief, which supported the position of 303 Creative. At issue was whether a state could force a person to provide a wedding website for same sex couples. Lorie Smith, who owns 303 Creative in Colorado, wants to expand her business into wedding websites, but her religious beliefs prohibit her from promoting same-sex weddings.

Our coalition argued that states cannot use their public accommoda—tion laws to force business owners to create custom speech.

In these cases, we stood for what is right and just. It’s not often that you go 5-0 at the U.S. Supreme Court in such a short period of time—but we have a good team that fights effectively for West Virginia citizens.
As our summer starts to wind down with fall and back to school around the corner, there is still so much to do this time of the year. For me, its canning and freezing vegetables and fruit time. Although it can be a lot of work, there is something special about preparing delicious food from the garden to eat and enjoy this winter when its cold and snowy outside. It’s also picnic and fair time of the year to keep everyone busy. I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer!

**Ag in West Virginia Poster Contest** – In the June edition I announced the top 3 winners of the poster contest sponsored by the WVFB WLC. We wanted to show off those posters and the students who drew them.

We had 22 counties participate this year and each year I think they can’t get any better, but I’m proven wrong every year. Although most school children today are 2-3 generations away from the farm, it is great seeing that quite a few have a pretty good idea of what agriculture looks like. Thankfully, West Virginia is more rural than most states so one doesn’t have to drive too far without seeing agriculture and all its beauty. Whether it is their families, having those of us come into the classrooms, or the WVFB Mobile Ag Science Lab, we need to keep educating our youth about the importance of agriculture and the food, fiber, and fuel that feeds us, clothes us, and gets us here and there.
All county first-place winners will be on display at the Cultural Center in Charleston later this fall in the Grand Hall. The top 3 posters will also be on display at the State Fair and at the WVFB Annual Meeting as one of our banquet placemats.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities** – I want to thank all of the county farm bureaus who sent money to the state office and all the counties who held food donation events this year. Thus far, we have donated $9,100 in food and other products. That doesn’t include the hundreds of pounds of pop tabs again this year. Ritchie County will be holding their event later in fall so I will update you then on our total yearly contribution. We hope to have a representative from the Charleston Ronald McDonald House at the Annual Meeting and perhaps arrange for tours of the house that weekend.

**Annual Meeting Planning** – The state WLC met in June at the state office to work on our budget and to plan events at the WVFB Annual Meeting in November in Charleston. It is in a different location this year so we are planning how and where to best display our activities. I hope many of you plan to attend this year. Mark your calendars for November 10-12 at the Charleston Marriott Town Center.

**Gun/Quilt Raffle** – The YF&R & WLC will be holding their annual raffle again this year. County Presidents, YF&R, and WLC chairs in your counties should already have tickets that you can purchase for a chance to win either the gun or quilt. A huge shout out to Joyce Ferrebee, our quilt maker. Joyce has been designing and handmaking our quilts for as long as I can remember. Each year she comes up with a different farming theme. This year’s quilt is queen size and reversible. The picture displayed shows some of the WLC holding the quilt showing both sides of the quilt. Joyce puts a lot of love into all of her quilts, and we are so thankful she is willing to make a new one each year for us.

In fact, I want to challenge any of you who have been one of the lucky ones to win her quilt over the years to send in a picture of it in your home, whether it be on your bed or hanging as a display. We will include those pictures in a future edition of this magazine for all of us to enjoy their beauty and Joyce’s originality.

**Photo Contest** – Just reminding all of you to keep snapping those photos around the farm whether scenic, funny and whimsical, or farm bureau events. Take some fair and farm bureau picnic photos. You never know, you might be a winner. Even if you can’t attend the state annual meeting, send them to the state office or with someone from your county who is attending. All of us in attendance love to look and vote on our favorites at the meeting.

Until next month, may you all be safe, healthy, and always remember to give thanks for the many blessings granted to us from God.

Blessings from my home to yours!
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While we may have enjoyed cooler weather at the beginning of summer, things sure are heating up now. Many farmers are trying to get caught up making hay between the rain showers, and there is a lot of canning to be done from our bountiful gardens. Between all of this, the West Virginia Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee has been out and about attending various events.

The summer began with our Summer Picnic on June 11 at Camp Pioneer 4-H Camp in Randolph County. This was a good time to visit with one another, while also enjoying some great food. We had a short committee meeting and discussed upcoming events.

We selected a winner of the $500 2023 YF&R Scholarship. The recipient was Jace Meadows from Jackson County. He hopes to attend Veterinarian School and then return to Jackson County to open his own clinic with an emphasis on large animals. He stated that the WV Farm Bureau has impacted his life by keeping him informed on regulations impacting the agriculture community.

Jaimee Carr, Miranda King, Elizabeth Lynch and Michelle Wilfong attended the career show at the WV State FFA Convention on July 7. We were able to set up a nice visual display and spoke to several FFA members about YF&R and what it has to offer. We also passed out kettle corn to the members. We hope to continue this in the future and would love to connect with more members.

We had a conference call on July 13 where we reviewed the budget, spoke about fundraising ideas (cont.)
and ways to increase participation in our competitive events. A few committee members will be attending the VA Young Farmers Summer Expo in Luray, VA July 28-30. We hope to bring back some ideas to share with others.

Something new that we recently began was a $1000 Cash Drawing fundraiser. It is our goal to sell 500 tickets by October 14, 2023. The money raised will be used to help offset the cost of events for YF&R Committee members. With the American Farm Bureau Convention taking place in Salt Lake City, Utah and the YF&R Leadership Conference being in Omaha, Nebraska, we are trying to raise as much money as possible. In order for someone to be placed in the drawing to win $1,000, they have to first donate $10 to the WV YF&R. Please contact a YF&R member, use the link provided or call the Farm Bureau office to purchase your ticket. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

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The best little scrub by the side of the rill;  
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of grass,  
And some highway happier make;  
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass -  
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be the captains, we've got to be crew;  
There's something for all of us here,  
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,  
And the task you must do is near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,  
If you can't be the sun be a star;  
It isn't by size that you win or you fail -  
Be the best of whatever you are!

Someone shared this little poem by Douglas Malloch on social media a few months ago and the words really resonated with me.

Each of us can think of something we are not. Some talent we wish we might have. A title or position we feel we deserve. But it doesn’t matter. Our position or status in life does not dictate our worth. If we try to measure our worth by the standards set by today’s world, we will fall hopelessly short.

1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” Too often, I think we look at our talents as instruments to benefit ourselves. How can my talent in this thing help me succeed more at work? However, the talents God has uniquely given to each of us are to honor Him with.

My husband and I recently ate at a Chick-fil-a. There was a young man working there who was greeting folks, discarding trash, wiping down tables and chairs, and sweeping the floor. He was doing what many might consider a very menial job, but he was the most cheerful and most energetic worker I saw there. He obviously took pride in his work, and when a fellow guest complimented him, he just beamed. It made me smile just watching. And I thought about how God had blessed him with finding such satisfaction in a job well done, no matter what it is.

Whatever you are - be the best you can be and do it for God’s glory.
The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) honored the 2023 inductees with a banquet on Saturday, July 22, at WVU Jackson’s Mill. The people honored have contributed much of their valuable time and effort to the residents of their communities and the State of West Virginia as a whole. Their work and dedication to advancing the science and practice of agriculture and forestry has earned them this prestigious recognition. WVAFHF President Jeremy McGill was on hand to present each recipient their plaques.

Chartered in 1974, the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame honors West Virginians who have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement, and improvement of agricultural and forest industries in West Virginia and around the world.

The 2023 inductees:

**Arthur and Anna Mouser** (Preston County, WV) – Arthur and Anna Mouser were among the first to bring the Charolais breed of cattle into West Virginia and have been instrumental in promoting the breed and the bloodline within the state. Their efforts have netted them many awards, ribbons, and banners over the years, such as the Grand Champion Female at the State Fair of West Virginia in 2017, the West Virginia Association of Conservation District’s Carrol Greene Award, and the Monongahela Conservation District’s Luther Britton Award. They have also been active in many local and national organizations such as the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, the Monongahela Conservation District, West Virginia Envirothon, 4-H, Conservation Farm Recognition program, the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary, and the Preston County Farmland Protection Board, among others.

**James “Jim” Foster** (Doddridge County, WV) – Though not a native West Virginian, his service in the U.S. Air Force brought him to the state as a young man, and in time, he chose a farm in the hills of Doddridge County to put down roots with his wife Earlene. Jim has dedicated himself to becoming a leader in agriculture through such organizations as the Doddridge County Farm Bureau, WVU Extension Service, the West Fork Conservation District, and the Farm Service Agency. He has served as a Chaplain to the National Grange. He is a founding member of both the Appalachian Grazing Conference and the West Virginia Envirothon Committee. He was also named the 2006 Grassland Farmer of the Year, 2006 Conservation Supervisor of the Year, and 2003 National Grange Family of the Year.
Jewell Plumley, DVM (Hardy County, WV) – Dr. Jewell Plumley has spent nearly her entire career advancing the field of veterinary medicine in West Virginia. She is the first woman to be appointed State Veterinarian and Director of WVDA’s Animal Health Division, and one of only six women veterinarians overseeing a state Animal Health department in the entire country. She has also been active in 4-H and FFA, mentoring and instructing our youth. She is a 4-H All-Star, a recipient of the 2018 Women in Agriculture Award, the 30-Year WVDA Governor’s Service Award, and the USDA Excellence Award for her response to Avian Influenza.

Jim and Enid Crawford (Marion County, WV) – Though Jim and Enid are no longer with us, their farm in Marion County was more than just a farm. It was an example of their commitment to forest management in the state of West Virginia. In 1963, they were only the second farm to join the Tree Farm Program in Marion County and were heavily involved in many of the conservation organizations and local institutions. Over the years, their management practices were studied by local and international scientists alike, with professionals coming from as far as England and France to observe their activities. Among their many awards, they received the Tree Farm of the Year Award — not just once but twice — in 1971 and 2000 and went on to represent the Northeast Region of the U.S. at the 2001 National Outstanding Tree Farm Ceremony.

Joseph McNeel, PHD (Fayette County, PA) – Dr. Joseph McNeel, longtime resident and native son of West Virginia, started his forestry journey at WVU with a B.S. in Forest Management and an M.S. and PH.D. in Industrial Forest Operations from Virginia Tech. During his tenure, he has been a tireless supporter of the West Virginia Forest Industry and a mentor to thousands of young students as the Director of WVU’s Division of Forestry and Natural Resources. He now serves as the Director of the Appalachian Hardwood Center at WVU. His research contributions are numerous and include the 2018 Outstanding Alumnus for the WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources Association, a member of the National Forestry Research Advisory Council from 2005-2008, and Extension Chair of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs from 2006-2010.

Howard ‘Larry’ Six (Mason County, WV) – A native West Virginian, Larry Six’s forestry dream began while he was still in high school in Cairo, West Virginia, when his ninth grade Civics teacher asked her class to write a paper on potential careers. He never looked back, becoming the first in his family to attend college, first at Glenville State, then at WVU for a B.S. in Forestry. He has worked a quiet life of service with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, serving the citizens of the State with dignity and honor for almost 50 years and counting. His loyal service has led to several awards over the years, including the Bronze Hardhat Award for a number of tree farms nominated — four of which were awarded the West Virginia Tree Farmer of the Year in 1992, 1994, 1996, and 2020.
2023 Youth Award Winners

National Land Judging FFA Individual Champion
Katelyn Detamore,
Taylor County FFA
Coach Steve Tennent

National Land Judging 4-H Team Champions
Monroe County 4-H - Michael Fraley, Caleb Broyles, Thomas Sibold, Peyton Gardenier, Luke Fraley, and Coach Brian Wickline

Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest Individual Champion
Jacob Parsons, Ravenswood FFA
Coach Jason Miihlbach
Stockpiling Forage for Dormant Season Grazing

by Kevin Shaffer, WVU Extension Livestock Specialist

A key profit driver in forage-based livestock operations is the ratio of grazing days to non-grazing days. With grazed feed being significantly lower in cost (but not in value) than purchased or stored feeds, producers are significantly more profitable when grazing days are maximized in a way that generates acceptable animal performance. The process of planning and management to grow a grazeable forage supply for use during the non-growing season is known as stockpiling.

Achieving a dormant season grazeable forage supply

Creating a stockpile of forage during the growing season is primarily a function of enterprise selection, enterprise structure and stocking rate. Livestock enterprises can generally be separated into two categories – breeding or growing livestock. In the context of forage demand, breeding herds are typically year-round enterprises, requiring a forage supply 365 days a year, where growing classes are season-long or less. These herds of growing animals can be referred to as disposable.

Because the forage supply or carrying capacity of our cool-season dominated pastures varies greatly throughout the year, having your farm stocked at growing season carrying capacity with a year-round or breeding herd will not allow you to stockpile forage for the dormant season. In comparison, stocking your farm with only a year-round herd at winter grazing capacity is not economical; therefore, having a mix of enterprises is often beneficial to allow for stockpiling as the disposable herd can be marketed to remove forage demand during the growing season.

Further, when dealing with a year-round breeding herd, forage demand fluctuates throughout the year due to the stage of production with the greatest forage demand being during lactation. Structuring your breeding herd enterprise to match their greatest forage demand with the greatest available grazeable forage supply will help in meeting their needs as well as improve your ability to maximize grazing days.

(cont.)
Key Principle: Match stocking rate (the number of livestock you have) with carrying capacity (your forage supply) on both a seasonal and annual basis.

When to stockpile

Stockpiling for dormant season grazing has two phases depending upon your goals. If your goal is only to extend the grazing season, then stockpiling forage should begin in August, preferably by August 15. This is the optimum time to remove animals from areas you wish to stockpile to balance both the volume and quality of cool-season forages. Starting the first of August generates more volume of forage but will result in lower quality stockpile. Starting to stockpile at the end of August or early September reduces volume but increases quality.

If your goal is to graze year-round, then stockpiling in addition to that above is recommended. This includes allocating a portion of your acreage and allowing it to stockpile for the entirety of the growing season. This forage is then harvested at the end of the dormant season the following year. Because of the stems from dead mature grass, the lush green undergrowth is held off the soil surface and protected from decay over the winter. Additionally, it is not pushed down as easily by snow, where it could begin to decay.

How much to stockpile

Determining the acreage required for stockpiling has been previously evaluated. In studies by Jim Gerrish and others at the University of Missouri, it was determined that approximately one-third of your grazeable acreage should be allocated for stockpiling when targeting year-round grazing. This is a good target, but we can look at this more closely on an individual basis by evaluating animal inventory and forage inventory.

To determine animal needs, understand that cattle will consume approximately 30 pounds of dry matter per day per 1,000 pounds of body weight. For example, an inventory of 30 cows that weigh 1,300 pounds will require approximately 1,200 pounds of dry matter per day. Over 120 days, that equals 144,000 pounds of forage dry matter.

To determine an accurate estimate of forage inventory, measure stockpiled forage toward the end of the growing season. Measure forage height using a yardstick or other calibrated method. Local research tells us there is generally between 200 and 450 pounds of forage dry matter per acre per inch of height, depending upon how dense the forage is. Thus, if an average height of 10 inches is found with a moderately dense forage stand (300 pounds per inch), approximately 3,000 pounds of dry matter is available per acre. Over 30 acres, that equates to 90,000 pounds of available forage supply.

Now that an inventory of both animal demand and forage supply has been determined, how the forage is grazed will determine how much available forage is actually consumed. In any case, 100% harvested is not achievable. Typical harvest or consumption efficiency will be between 30% and 80%, depending on the size of the area allocated and the frequency with which animals are moved. Smaller areas with shorter graze periods will increase harvest efficiency.

If the cow inventory described above is given the entire 30 acres, they will only consume around 30% to 40% of the available forage, or 36,000 pounds. This equates to 30 days of grazing. In contrast, if those same cows are given access to only their forage needs for one day (i.e., half an acre) and moved every day, they are now able to graze the same acreage for 60 days.

Doing these same calculations in reverse will determine the number of acres to stockpile. If those same 30 cows are maintained for a dormant season of 120 days, the total forage demand is 144,000 pounds. Given a stockpile of 4,000 pounds per acre and a harvest efficiency of 60%, 2,400 pounds per acre will be harvested. By dividing this value into the total forage demand, it is determined that 60 acres of stockpile will be required for 120 days of grazing. This does not consider if the cows calve and begin lactating during the dormant season. Forage demand would increase in that scenario.

(cont.)
Types of forage to stockpile

It is often asked what types of forage can or should be stockpiled. Simply put, whatever forages are currently growing on your acreage; however, others stockpile better than others. Tall fescue is the optimum species to stockpile for maintaining quality and nutrient density throughout the dormant season. If tall fescue isn’t a dominant species for you, don’t let that limit you. Cool season forages, such as fescue, orchard grass

Quality of stockpiled forage

As was mentioned in the previous section, stockpiled forage can vary greatly in quality or feed value. In many instances, vegetative stockpile can and will exceed hay and/or baleage in quality; however, it is recommended to take a forage sample of stockpile to compare quality with the specific needs of the animals that will be grazing. Supplementing stockpiled forage is still more
economical than completely substituting grazeable forage with hay or other stored feeds.

**Cost of feeding vs. grazing stockpile**

Any time equipment is put between the mouth of a cow and her feed source, the cost of that feed source rises significantly. There is minimal or no equipment involved in the production of stockpiled forage and minimal to no equipment (temporary fence materials) involved in the harvest. The same cannot be said for hay or baleage, which require significant investments in equipment to make, store and feed. It’s not only the cost of the feed that must be considered, but the cost of the feeding. With hay costs commonly at $120 to $150 per ton, there is easily another $10 to $20 per ton cost in the labor and equipment costs to feed. Stockpiled forage only has a land rental charge and potentially soil amendment costs. Although the cost of producing that stockpiled forage is significantly less than hay or baleage, the value is at least equal to hay or baleage because that is what it is replacing.
The title of this article should evoke an image in the minds of all who read it in the West Virginia Farm Bureau News. Even with readers’ eyes closed, one or more churches will come to mind.

My wife Jill gave me the suggestion to do a photo essay on churches for our magazine. Since I’m a writer foremost, these are the words that came to me—along with our photographs of several local country churches in the Allegheny area where we live.

I can see several of those churches in Pendleton County in my mind’s eye, and the one on Middle Mountain in Randolph County where we both received Jesus Christ as Savior over a half-century ago. Spreading the Christian gospel was the original mission of most of America’s churches, regardless of denomination.

The New Testament tells us that the church is actually the body of believers and does not define the church as the building where worshipers meet. Recall that the first Roman Christians met in that city’s underground catacombs. An outline of a fish was their sign of recognition.

Some of the first (West) Virginia churches began with the ministry of circuit riders on horseback.

They often came in springtime to preach, hold communion, baptisms, and weddings, and funeral services. The sarvis tree which blooms here in early spring is known in botanicals as the service berry, which got its name from those early church meetings. Some denominations refer to the building where services are held as the meetinghouse.

Churches dotted the hills and hollers in most West Virginia locales so that residents could reach them on foot or transport by horses. Cars came along years later. Church services and preaching have always been a source of strength for people of faith. The Bible teaches: “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.” (Romans 10:17).

Today, many Christian beliefs based upon the Judeo-Christian values that held our society together from the days of our founding are being torn asunder. The gospel of Jesus Christ is under attack from the secular forces of moral relativity. The solid rock foundation of the teachings of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible is being tested and tried within many church denominations as well.

There’s a lot of truth to the old adage of never discussing politics or religion. Looking back I don’t recall hearing about “being saved” when I was a young lad. I heard my first salvation message as a

(cont.)
Marine recruit in a big chapel on Parris Island that was crammed full of shaved-head young men who sat and listened in absolute disciplined silence. Each of us had received an olive green pocket-size New Testament upon arrival into our squad bays (barracks) which housed us for the mega-challenging three months of basic training and drill. I took the sermon to heart, but as time passed, I drifted away from a walk of faith.

The years went by and I faced many trials and tribulations by following my own path instead of that of God's will for my life. The first Sunday after we settled in Randolph County, we attended services at Lambert Mennonite Church on Middle Mountain.

We heard the gospel preached each Sunday by Pastor Roy Good. After several months, we responded to an alter call to repent and receive Christ as our Savior, and were baptized into the fellowship. Our lives were transformed and we started following the teachings of the Bible.

Our house on the Dry Fork, near Harman, was the former Bethel Mennonite Church, built in 1907, the first Mennonite Church built west of Allegheny Mountain in this state. It was sold to us after the congregation was gone and the building was empty. It took us twelve years to fully transform it into a home. The building originally had a double door in front.

Some old churches had two doors in front, one for men and the other for women, as pictured in the Roaring Creek Mennonite church accompanying this article. Men and women seated on opposite sides of the aisle was practiced in some early church services where we attended.

I have never forgotten former Pastor Roy’s words, “A church should not be a rest home for saints but a hospital for sinners.” And I confess to being a sinner (cont.)
saved by God’s grace. And to all those churches that uphold that gospel, we ought to be ever so grateful. Ashley, a WVFB member and sister in the Lord, called while I was writing this article and we updated each other on our children. She reminded me of the Bible verse, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Those of us who are Christians, have an obligation to share and uphold the gospel we received in those little country churches. May we always have the conviction to do so.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who has faith...” Romans 1:16
Roots: 100 Years of Omps Family Farmers

Just over the state line in West Virginia’s oldest county of Hampshire, lies what is now known as State Line Farm in the unincorporated town of Bloomery. Assumedly inherited from his father-in-law, Benjamin H. Strother, John William “J.W.” Omps was the owner of “Bloomery Farm”, located just off Route 127. J.W. then decided, at age 46, to expand his farming business by purchasing that which he deemed “Omps Farm” in 1918. The farmhouse, dating back to the early 1800s, is likely original to the town’s establishment and is still inhabitable today.

The town (and hence the farm) of Bloomery got its name from the “Bloomeries”, or iron furnaces, used in the 1700-1800s to smelt iron. Bloomery was an ideal location both geographically and topographically for Bloomeries and the iron shipping channels of the adjacent Cacapon River. The last iron furnace closed permanently in 1881, and Bloomery residents were left to support their families by farming, amongst other things.

J.W. and his wife Teena “Tennie” Elizabeth resided on Omps Farm, relying on help from family and hired hands to keep both farms running efficiently. J.W. supplemented his income by working a steam-powered sawmill. He and Tennie had seven children, four boys, and three girls. Raymond Ellis “R.E.” born August 1901 was the eldest of those seven children. When he became of age, Raymond relocated to live and work on Bloomery Farm. He married Bessie Golden Pugh in 1925 and they had seven children.

Two of J.W. and Tennie’s sons went on to establish businesses of their own: Harry Herschel founded and operated HH Omps Trucking, and Voyne Benjamin began and acted as Funeral Director for Omps Funeral Home in Winchester, Virginia. John Paskal went on to become a Sears employee. Of their daughters; Nina Elizabeth married a lineman, Hilda Marie wed a carpenter, and Damaris Fannie married a teacher who later took up orchard farming.

In February 1933, J.W. Omps passed away from pneumonia, a complication from a broken back caused by a fall several months prior. Tennie remained at Omps Farm until passing away from old age in 1963. The eldest son, Raymond, became the new owner of Bloomery Farm. Less than ten years after his mother’s death, Raymond died from emphysema, leaving Bloomery Farm to his wife, Bessie, and son Harold Jennings “H.J.” to work.

The Omps family entrepreneur mindset continued to evolve with Raymond and Bessie’s other children. Charles William maintained the sawmill in Bloomery before venturing to Winchester to found Omps Garage in 1958, which he owned and operated until his death in 2014. Omps Garage is still in business today operated by Charles’ son Charles Bradley “Brad”, and daughter, Susan. Willie Lea was a teacher at West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind and later in Frederick County, Virginia before passing on in the spring 2015. Ellis Junior “E.J.” served in the U.S Marine Corps and then went on to become a truck driver and marry before passing away in the early 90’s from multiple sclerosis. Buford “Wendell” retired from the Virginia Department of Highway and now owns and operates a 26-acre beef, hay, and straw farm in Whitacre, Virginia. After serving over 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, Ronald Ray now maintains a farm in Augusta, West Virginia. For some time, Carroll Nathaniel worked as a buyer and manager...
for Leggett’s’ (Belk) until he and his wife Lena took over Omps Grocery in Bloomery, WV in 1980 until his death in August 2019.

Like his grandfather before him, H.J. took care of Bloomery Farm while earning extra income by working the sawmill in the 1960s and 1970s and he also began a lime hauling business. In 1963 H.J. wed Shirley Jean Whitacre with whom he shared four children; Randall Mark “Randy”, Michael Jennings “Mike”, Teresa Jean “TJ”, and Robin Lynne. In 1968 H.J. purchased Omps Farm, which he renamed State Line Farm, focusing on beef cattle, corn, hay, and straw. H.J. continues to haul lime while still owning and operating State Line Farm along with his two sons Randy, Mike, and grandson Michael Raymond “Raymond”.

Randy and Mike both remain in Bloomery with their wives and run businesses of their own in conjunction with laboring the farms. Mike runs State Line Sawmill and lives with his wife Deborah and second son, in Bloomery. Randy and his wife Linda own and operate Ran-Lin Farms, a corn, straw, hay, beef, lime, gravel farming, and trucking business. Additionally, in 2017 Randy and Linda took over the operation of Omps Grocery.

French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote, “The More Things Change, The More They Remain the Same.” For over five generations, the Omps family farmers have been able to adapt old livelihoods to work in current ever-changing conditions. Some have closely followed their forefathers’ footsteps while others have branched out into new occupations and entrepreneurship. Regardless, each member of the Omps Family continues to persevere together in strengthening a legacy for future generations.
Recipe Possibilities

IT’S CANNING SEASON!

Need some recipe ideas or a better understanding of canning principles? The USDA publishes a Complete Guide to Home Canning which includes preparation safety tips as well as canning techniques and recipes for tomatoes, fruits, vegetables, jams and jellies, red meat, etc. Below you will find just a few of our favorites. The publication may be found at https://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_usda.html#gsc.tab=0

Tomatoes, Tomatoes...What to do with all those tomatoes!

COUNTRY WESTERN KETCHUP

Yield: 6 to 7 pints

| 24 lbs ripe tomatoes | 4 tsp paprika |
| 5 chile peppers, sliced and seeded | 4 tsp whole allspice |
| 1/4 cup salt | 4 tsp dry mustard |
| 2-2/3 cups vinegar (5%) | 1 tsp whole peppercorns |
| 1-1/4 cups sugar | 1 tsp mustard seeds |
| 1/2 tsp ground red pepper (cayenne) | 1 tsp bay leaves |

Procedure: Wash tomatoes. Dip in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds or until skins split. Dip in cold water. Slip off skins and remove cores. Quarter tomatoes into 4-gallon stockpot or a large kettle. Add onions and red pepper. Bring to boil and simmer 20 minutes, uncovered. Cover, turn off heat and let stand for 20 minutes. Combine spices in a spice bag and add to vinegar in a 2-quart saucepan. Bring to boil. Remove spice bag and combine vinegar and tomato mixture. Boil about 30 minutes. Put boiled mixture through a food mill or sieve. Return to pot. Add sugar and alt, boil gently, and stir frequently until volume is reduced by one-half or until mixture rounds up on spoon without separation. Fill hot pint jars, leaving 1/8-inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel. Adjust lids and process.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Style of Pack</th>
<th>Jar Size</th>
<th>Process Time at Altitudes of 0–1,000 ft</th>
<th>1,001–6,000 ft</th>
<th>Above 6,000 ft</th>
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<td>Hot Pints</td>
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<td>15 min</td>
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TOMATO SALSA (USING PASTE TOMATOES)

Yield: About 16 to 18 pints

| 7 qts peeled, cored, chopped tomatoes* | 2 tbsp salt |
| 4 cups seeded, chopped long green chiles | 1 tsp black pepper |
| 5 cups chopped onion | 2 tbsp ground cumin (optional) |
| 1/2 cup seeded, finely chopped jalapeño peppers | 3 tbsp oregano leaves (optional) |
| 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped | 2 tbsp fresh cilantro (optional) |
| 2 cups bottled lemon or lime juice | |

*TThis recipe works best with paste tomatoes. Slicing tomatoes require a much longer cooking time to achieve a desirable consistency.

Procedure: Caution: Wear plastic or rubber gloves and do not touch your face while handling or cutting hot peppers. If you do not wear gloves, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before touching your face or eyes.

Peel and prepare chile peppers as described on page 3-20, if desired. Wash tomatoes and dip in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds or until skins split. Dip in cold water, slip off skins, and remove cores. Combine all ingredients except cumin, oregano and cilantro in a large pot and bring to a boil, stirring frequently, then reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Add spices and simmer for another 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Fill hot salsa into hot pint jars, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel. Adjust lids and process.

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30  West Virginia Farm Bureau News
Theme: Fruits and Vegetables

**ACROSS**
1. Itsy Bitsy Spider’s tunnel
6. Operations, as in military
9. Carpenter’s joint
14. Coach’s talk
15. Long-necked wader
16. Did not go out to eat (2 words)
17. Chi preceder
18. Top scout
19. *’90s children’s series “___ in Pyjamas”*
21. *Alternative to stick*
23. T-cell killer, acr.
24. Show worry
25. Knee-related acronym
28. Sushi restaurant’s boozy offering
30. *Grilled cheese and ____ soup*
35. Mouse to a snake
37. In ____ , or together
39. Convicted one
41. California and Nevada lake
43. Raja’s daughter
44. Uncouth ones
46. Of two minds
47. René Descartes’ “therefore”
48. Make wealthy
50. Use a surgical beam
52. Gingerbread creation
53. *When fruit is ready*
55. Red-white-and-blue inits.
57. * “Hot” vegetable-shaped toy*
60. *In BLT*
64. 3-D picture in a book
65. U.N. workers’ grp.
67. Owned house or car, e.g.
68. Item on a cell phone bill
69. What’s old is new again, prefix
70. Popular electric car
71. Hair styling products
72. Scottish cap
73. British peers

**DOWN**
1. Block of concrete, e.g.
2. Pocket bread
3. Baker’s baker
4. Dickens’s Heep
5. Serena’s sport
6. Prefers
7. *Fairytale princess test*
8. Virgo’s brightest star
9. Letter opener
10. Ship to Colchis
11. Airhead
12. The loneliest number?
15. Concerning this
20. Nautical “Stop!”
22. College assessment test, acr.
24. Camera’s tiny aperture
25. *Gwyneth Paltrow’s daughter*
26. Sing like Tony Bennett
27. Madagascar primate
29. Myanmar currency
31. Bébés mother
32. Rooster, in the olden days
33. Polynesian kingdom
34. *Layered bulb*
36. Giant Himalayan?
38. Lady Grantham of “Downton Abbey”
40. Follow as a consequence
45. Claw mark
49. *Battleship* exclamation
51. Heir’s concern
54. *At the end of a hot pepper or many a sweet potato*
55. Clueing
56. Prepare to be shot
58. October birthstone
59. What Little Toot does
60. *Fruit of the ____ *
61. Brezhnev’s domain
62. Jailbird’s home
63. Airline postings
64. Dog breed from China
66. Grazing ground
67. Owns house or car, e.g.
68. Item on a cell phone bill
69. What’s old is new again, prefix
70. Popular electric car
71. Hair styling products
72. Scottish cap
73. British peers

**CROSSWORD**

Did You Know?
There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth.

Butterflies might be more attracted to your weeds than your flowers. It’s more about the fragrance and nectar. New cultivars of popular flowers have been bred for enhanced color and size, but have often lost their fragrance in the process.

A little baking soda can help you grow sweeter tomatoes. Adding this kitchen staple into your plant’s soil can help reduce acidity, which sweetens up your crop.

You don’t need to be a dedicated composter to reap similar benefits. Applying used coffee grounds, eggshells, chopped-up banana peels, and other organic matter directly to your soil (no composting required) can offer plants nutrients as they decompose. For already-growing beds, scatter and bury the items within the first few inches of soil.

(www.goodhousekeeping.com)
Please visit our website, FoxfireNation.com, to learn more about this significant property.

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