4 The Way I See It
— Charles Wilfong
Commentary on Statewide and National Issues by the President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau

6 Around the Dome
— Dwayne O’Dell
Our Director of Government Relations keeps us up to speed on the latest legislative issues

8 Young Farmer and Rancher Fall Farm Tour
News from our county boards from across the state

9 County Corner
News from our county boards from across the state

11 God, Farming, and Sourdough Bread...Stories from the Farm
— Susan Wilkins Taylor
Getting by with Faith and Family

12 2023 Farming Heritage Award Recipient

15 2023 West Virginia Women in Agriculture Award Recipients

17 WV Extension EXPERT REVIEW
Don’t Guess, Soil Test
— Emily Morrow, WVU Extension Agent
Jefferson County

22 2023 Northeast Presidents and Administrators Conference

24 Growing a State and A Nation
Telling the History of Ag in WV Through Pictures & Stories

26 Recipe Possibilities
Recipes to Inspire

27 Come Sit a Spell
Puzzles, Wit, and Wisdom

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web site: www.wvfarm.org
email: contactus@wvfarm.org
phone: 800.398.4630
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.

UPCOMING AGRICULTURE INNOVATION TRAININGS

Participation in the Farm Fellowship Program is not required to take these trainings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAINING/EVENTS</th>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crop Scheduling &amp; Succession Planting</td>
<td>Wed., Sept. 27 / 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.</td>
<td>Eastern WV Community Action, Moorefield, WV</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparing &amp; Packaging Produce for Sale</td>
<td>Thurs., Oct. 5 / 2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Spring Valley Farm &amp; Orchard, Augusta, WV</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<td>Pasture Management</td>
<td>Fri. &amp; Sat., Oct. 27 &amp; 28 / 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.</td>
<td>WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, Wardensville, WV</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Tue., Nov. 14 / 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.</td>
<td>WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, Wardensville, WV</td>
<td>$15</td>
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Contact: aginnovation@easternwv.edu and call 304-434-8000 ext. 9606
Every five years, Congress has to craft a new Farm Bill. These Farm Bills provide funding for an array of agricultural programs. Years ago, almost all of the funding was designated for actual farm production assistance. Many farms were greatly improved through cost sharing with farmers on projects such as liming, fertilization, fencing, drainage projects, etc. Much of that production assistance has disappeared over the years. In its place, funding has been greatly expanded for the Food Stamp program, or as it is now called, SNAP. This social welfare program now absorbs about 80% of the 105 trillion dollars included in the Farm Bill. That leaves about 20% of the Farm Bill funding to cover all the other agricultural initiatives. That 20% is spread over eleven titles or categories including commodity support, conservation, trade, credit, research, forestry, energy, horticulture, crop insurance, rural development, and miscellaneous.

U.S. Rep. G.T. Thompson, PA, who is chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, has said that he would really like to put the farm back in the Farm Bill. I agree. It seems as if there is no end, or even limits, to what taxpayers are expected to spend in welfare programs. Many Democrats in Congress want to do away with the modest work requirements for SNAP recipients, which were passed earlier this year as part of raising the debt ceiling.

Congressman Thompson is a strong leader for farm policy and I believe he will do as much as possible to keep true agricultural issues at the forefront. Some of our very important commodity support and crop insurance programs need to be updated in light of ever-increasing production costs. Some of the voluntary conservation programs are under attack by the extreme environmentalists in the House and in the Biden administration. They want conservation programs tied to their radical climate change agenda. In addition, they want compliance to be mandatory, and not voluntary, like the programs that have been so successful today. These liberal politicians and bureaucrats will use every chance they have to gain more control of our farms.

Hopefully, we can end up with another 5-year Farm Bill that protects the productivity, profitability, and competitiveness of farmers and provides sufficient funding for rural development projects.

Charles Wilfong, President, West Virginia Farm Bureau
Photo Submission

Jason and Maddie

by Jason Thompson
Prichard, WV - Wayne County
I certainly hope each of you are enjoying the summer weather. Some areas of the state are very dry, while others have received significant rainfall. Some farmers are busy cutting up fallen trees from the storms. I hope you have had the opportunity to visit your county fair or one of our great state parks this summer. Please consider the following issues:

The August legislative interim meetings were very busy, as Governor Justice also called a special session. A total of 88 bills were presented, with 35 being approved by the Legislature. Legislators considered supplemental appropriation bills to spend approximately $450 million from the budget surplus. Approved legislation included establishing Summersville Lake State Park and clarifying that vehicle tax payments made before January 1, 2024, will be eligible for certain tax credits. Bills were passed to improve correctional officers’ salaries, as well as to provide extra money for Division of Forestry’s firefighting equipment. A full list of bills may be found at www.wvlegislature.gov.

In USDA’s World Agriculture Supply & Demand Estimate (WASDE) for August, USDA projects corn production to be up 10 percent over 2022. Farmers are expected to harvest 15 billion bushels with an average of 175 bushels per acre. Soybean production is forecast at 4.21 billion bushels, down 2 percent from 2022. Several states, including Ohio and Indiana, are projected to have record soybean yields. USDA projects the average price for corn at $4.90 per bushel and soybeans at $12.70 per bushel.

The United States Congress has been in discussion about the 2023 Farm Bill, addressing risk management and conservation, as well as food security and hunger issues in our country. Some representatives have proposed significant reductions in federal spending for SNAP. Please remember that nearly 200 members of Congress have never considered a farm bill. Certainly, many issues are being discussed, including trade wars, inflation, the conflict in Ukraine, and natural disasters. The farm bill also affects agricultural research, forestry, disease control, and export marketing programs.

The U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) has launched a series of experimental regulations that may affect thousands of businesses. The SEC’s climate disclosure rule would force publicly traded companies to disclose certain expansive greenhouse gas emission data. The proposal may require livestock producers who sell to publicly traded companies to report “Scope 3” supply chain emissions. The complexity of the report will possibly require farmers to hire consultants/lawyers to meet the compliance reporting if enacted. According to USDA, agricultural land values have increased on average $280 per acre. The U.S. average of all land and buildings clocked in at a record $4,080 per acre, up 7.4 percent over last year. High commodity prices in 2021-2022, as well as urban sprawl and land being viewed as a safe investment asset, appear to be the driver for these elevated prices.

USDA reports the average land value in West Virginia at $3,200 per acre, with Ohio and Pennsylvania values being over $7,000 per acre. Cropland value in West Virginia was reported at $3,800 per acre. Nationally, pasture land values were reported at $1,760 per acre; however, West Virginia pasture land is $2,450 per acre.

Certainly, increased interest rates may have significant effects on land values. If you are considering the sale of farmland, please consider the IRS 1031 exchange option.

Cattle prices increased significantly in the first six months of 2023. The July market price for a fed steer was up 27 percent over July 2022. Drought and high input costs have driven many cattle to market ahead of schedule. USDA’s July report estimated 95.9 million cattle, down 3 percent from last year. For perspective, the inventory for 2014 was 95.7 million. The calf crop is estimated at 24.8 million spring calves and 9 million fall born calves. Slaughter cow numbers are down 12 percent, while the percentage of heifers being placed on feed remains constant. Accumulated beef production is down 4 percent. Per capita beef production is
forecast at 58 pounds per person, down about 1.5 percent. Overall, U.S. beef demand remains impressive with a record average retail price of $4.86 per pound. U.S. beef export sales are down 14 percent from a year ago. Beef exports are up to Mexico and Canada but down 27 percent to Japan.

Finally, thank you for your membership and support of the West Virginia Farm Bureau. I am reminded of the following advice: “Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”

Helen Keller said, “When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.” And as Babe Ruth said, “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”

Have a great day!
West Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher

Fall Farm Tour

MONONGALIA & PRESTON COUNTIES
SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

MEET AT 9:30 AM AT:
6000 RAIL STREET, MORGANTOWN, WV 26501
(OFF OF THE WESTOVER EXIT ON I-79)

MOUNTAINTOP BEVERAGE
Mountaintop Beverage is in early-stages of building out a clean manufacturing facility and preparing to operate, produce, process and package aseptic and extended shelf-life beverages on behalf of its signed customers (brands), in the food and beverage industry. Initial plant size will be 330,000 square feet and the company plans several plant expansions over the next several years to more than double that size.

ON EAGLES' WINGS
THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP - On Eagles’ Wings accepted its first participants in September 2007 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their mission is to provide a safe environment for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to enrich and enhance their lives through equine assisted activities and therapies.

PIKE MOUNTAIN FARM
Pike Mountain Farm is a small family farm in Reedsville, WV. They produce quality pasture raised meats including chickens, lambs, cows, rabbits, and pigs.

RSVP to Mariah by October 1!!!
call/text: (304) 288-4041 • email: Mariah.Hatton01@gmail.com
**Hampshire County**

**Scholarships Awarded**

The Hampshire County Farm Bureau recently awarded three deserving seniors the William “Bill” Vause Parker Scholarship. Mr. Parker was a valuable member of the Hampshire County Farm Bureau and the community he loved. Scholarships in the amounts of $250 were given to Grant Hicks, Nathan Sions II, and Justin Frazer. All three recipients are current Hampshire Co Farm Bureau members, demonstrate leadership skills and community involvement. A special Thank You to the William “Bill” Vause Parker family for their continued donation.

![Scholarship winners Grant Hicks, Justin Frazer, and Nathan Sions, II](image)

**Pendleton County**

**Poster Contest Winners**

For the past 32 years, Pendleton County Farm Bureau has sponsored the “Picture Agriculture in West Virginia” poster contest for the county’s fourth-grade students. This year, 56 students designed posters for the county contest. Ross Pownell, a fourth-grade student at Franklin Elementary School, won the contest. Second place winner was Marion Williams with Skye Dahmer placing third. Honorable mention was awarded to Nolin Nededog and Doyle Plaugher. Williams and Plaugher also attend Franklin Elementary School. Dahmer and Nededog are students at North Fork Elementary. Pendleton County Farm Bureau gave $15 to the first place winner, $10 to the second place and $5 to the third place. Honorable mention winners received $2 (a Sacagawea dollar and a Presidential dollar) with all other participants receiving a Presidential dollar.

![Ross Pownell is pictured with Paula Mitchell, county women’s committee chairperson.](image)

**Wetzel County**

**Picnic Meeting at Henderson Farm**

Wetzel County Farm Bureau picnic meeting was held on July 25, 2023. Beth Baldwin, territory manager from the FB Insurance company spoke about the up and coming insurance. Henderson’s Farm hosted this picnic for us, we had a wonderful turnout. Next meeting is August 22, 2023. Wetzel County holds their meetings 4th Tuesday of the month at the Wylieville Firehall. Wetzel County also has a Facebook page for any updates to canceled meetings or changed meetings. We welcome everyone to attended the meetings!
All soybean farmers, including you, created biodiesel, fueling an extra 63 cents per bushel to your bottom line. How? By pooling your resources through your soy checkoff. Learn how your soy checkoff is bringing tangible returns back to you and your operation at unitedsoybean.org/hopper.
I have a confession to make. For years, my mother did all my pressure canning for me. I will make all the jams, pickles, and fruits in the world that only require a water bath. But foods that require pressure canning have always scared me to death.

I thought my mom and I had a pretty good deal going on. I would show up with my green beans already broken and washed and a box of jars. My mom would can everything and I took the filled jars back home and put them on the shelf. This worked out great for years. Until last year. My mother informed me that she was quitting; and then threatened to get me my very own pressure canner for Christmas. She sent me home with her spare canner and step-by-step written-out instructions on how to can corn.

This winter, about the time I started my vegetable seeds indoors, I realized I better go buy myself a pressure canner in preparation for my mother being on strike again. I went to the local hardware store, found the exact canner my mother has, and brought it home. Somehow, I have managed to can a few dozen quarts of green beans on my own, with only one phone call for help, and I have not blown anything up yet. My husband did leave the house the first day I canned, saying he wanted it on the record that he was not home when I blew myself up. (Thanks for the support....)

As much as I resisted it, I have to admit, it is more convenient to do my own pressure canning and not have to lug everything to my mom’s kitchen. My 93-year-old grandmother recently asked me what I had done all day and when I told her I had spent it canning, she just shook her head. “Why don’t you just freeze it?” she asked me. And I thought, “Why not indeed?” It would certainly be easier; and probably safer.

But, I have never thought frozen peaches or green beans or corn tasted quite the same as canned. And it is hardly as satisfying to see a pile of ziplock bags in the freezer as it is to see my nice neat jars lined up on the pantry shelf. I have always found it rather depressing to find a forgotten bag of frozen something or other in the very bottom of the freezer, too freezer-burnt to even try to eat. So much work went into that lost bag, only to be thrown out.

Each August when I see my beautiful, overflowing garden I promise myself I won’t plant it quite so full next year. The squash plants need a bit more room. The cucumbers grow out into the yard and kill a section of the grass because I cannot bear to mow the wayward vines. I should leave my walking rows a bit wider so I can pick beans better. But every spring I pack the seeds and plants in as close as I can, adding a new variety of this or that I want to try, never believing how quickly all that bare dirt can push up so much green.

It reminds me of the verse from 2 Corinthians 9:6, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

I am always reminded of how much faith it takes to be a planter, whether it is a garden or a field of corn. We did not get our corn planted until very late this year. It rained and rained. The fields were too wet to get into. When the corn seed was finally planted, we worried it was too dry for it to ever sprout.

Too wet. Too dry. Birds that eat the seed and leave nothing behind. Wind and hail storms that take down half a field or an entire garden in a few minutes. And yet we keep planting (and sometimes replanting) and praying and watching.

And when God blesses us with a good harvest, we can food and make hay and chop corn and praise Him for the bounty. And when the harvest is not so good, we praise Him for the previous year’s bounty that gave us a little extra. Regardless of a good harvest or bad, before the last silage wagon is cleaned out and put away in the barn, we order the seed for next year’s planting.

Keep the faith, friends. Praying you blessings for a bountiful harvest.
The Moss Farm of Sand Run in Upshur County was selected as the 2023 Farming Heritage Award Recipient, sponsored by the West Virginia Farm Bureau and State Fair of West Virginia. The award is presented annually to a family that has striven to maintain its rural lifestyle by contributing to the community, acting as role models, dedicating time to efficient agricultural production, and maintaining the upkeep of their farm through generations and honors the history of agriculture, as represented on the West Virginia State Seal.

The Moss Family migrated from the Shenandoah Valley to Northwestern Virginia by 1850 and had settled in Upshur County by 1860. Serving in the Union-aligned 133rd Upshur County Militia, West Virginia State Troops during the Civil War, the Moss family helped establish the community of Sand Run, opening the first store there and serving as postmaster for many years.

In 1903, John W Moss purchased the 153-acre and 8-pole tract of land situated on the historic Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike in Sand Run that he would establish as the Moss Farm, growing it into a diverse commercial agriculture production, value-added foods, and catering operation. By at least 1910, he was involved in agriculture. Marrying Eda S Lantz in 1906, the couple would build their iconic white, two-story, hip-roof American foursquare house on what was then 137 acres and 93 poles in 1922. Other farm buildings included: a horse and livestock barn; chicken houses to accommodate at least 3,000 birds; cellar and cellar top; combination wash house, coal house, and garage; and equipment storage shed.

Moss’s agricultural operations spanned: hog, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, fruit trees, produce, and smoked meats. Additionally, the farm provided routine and event catering services to the Moore, Kepple & Co. sawmill in Ellamore, supplied decorative phlox flowers and ferns to two hospitality establishments, and bred registered American Hereford cattle, primarily of the Domino line. Moss did not own an automobile and worked the farm with horse-drawn implements, though his eldest son would later own a gas station and car dealership in Sand Run and be the first...
in the community to own a tractor and hay baler. Nonetheless, working together with his two eldest sons, Moss was also an eager adopter of modern scientific agricultural practices.

Literacy and education were valued priorities in the family, and great efforts were made to overcome barriers of geographic distance and other burdens. Three of Moss’s children, three of his grandchildren, and other family members would enter the field of education. In a time when many people never left the county and fewer still left the state for any reason, the Moss family valued vacation travel. In the early 1930s, they took their younger children to Niagara Falls and Washington, DC, and their eldest sons, who had a car, took a road trip vacation to the Florida Keys. Similarly, whenever faced with serious illness, the family traveled to Johns Hopkins Hospital for medical care. The family was also connected through business and travel with areas outside of their community and Appalachia and keenly invested in staying abreast on national and international events, via radio and regional newspaper subscriptions.

Founding members of Nay’s Chapel Methodist Protestant Church, faith has always been at the center of their lives. In keeping with their love of God and beautiful literature, the Moss family has long used the Book of Common Prayer for private and public worship. Moss personally paid many church expenses, and the family demonstrably lived the tenets of their faith in their daily life. They provided work-for-food opportunities to persons hard on their luck during the Great Depression and held a large weekly Sunday lunch with persons from the Sand Run community, City of Buckhannon, and elsewhere attending. Following Moss’s sudden death in 1954, farming operations declined, and following Eda’s death, the farm entered a period of heirship with minimally maintained agricultural and conservation activities managed by Moss’s eldest son and, later, his youngest grandson. In 2001, Moss’s granddaughter, CM Poling, and her husband, Matthew G Poling, purchased the Moss Farm and have restored the farm to small-scale operations, while putting in place modern conservation practices.

When asked what this award means to their family, CM Poling expressed that, rather than a reflection on their current operations and conservation practices, they viewed the award as a significant recognition of the Moss family farm history and their farming lifestyle values. She said that the family perceives a farming lifestyle to be more than the actual activity of farming but to encompass a values-based template that guides each individual.

Poling explained that, “A farming lifestyle-based values system has provided a fundamental framework to each of us that has allowed our family, starting even before Grandpa and Grandma Moss, to make lasting contributions to our community and the wider business and academic world.” Poling continued, “It’s is very poignant to us all to have our cherished Moss Farm history and legacy honored by the State Fair of West Virginia and West Virginia Farm Bureau.” “The Farming Heritage Award honors an agricultural family and their multi-generation contributions to their community and to West Virginia. The official state seal of West Virginia, featuring a farmer, is also the logo of the award program,” said Kelly Collins, CEO of the State Fair of West Virginia.

The winning family was treated to an award ceremony during the WV State Fair on Thursday, August 17th, as well as an award luncheon, overnight accommodations, free admission, and preferred parking. A photo and brief biography of the winners is also displayed in the Gus R. Douglass Annex during the fair.

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- **BALE IT**
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  - Round silage balers
  - Self-propelled baler

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  - Vermeer® Net

- **DRY IT**
  - Tedders

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- **FEED IT**
  - Bale processors
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**SOUTH BRANCH VALLEY LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE**

**2023 SCHEDULE**

**Special Graded Feeder Sales**
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

**FALL SCHEDULE**

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*Take In - Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

**AND JOIN US FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 FOR A SPECIAL COW SALE!**

**SOUTHERN VALLEY LIVESTOCK**

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*Take In - Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

**AND JOIN US FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 FOR A SPECIAL COW SALE!**

**SOUTHERN VALLEY LIVESTOCK**

**2023 SCHEDULE**

**Special Graded Feeder Sales**
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

**FALL SCHEDULE**

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**AND JOIN US FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 FOR A SPECIAL COW SALE!**
The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has announced the recipients of the 2023 West Virginia Women in Agriculture Awards. The West Virginia Women in Agriculture (WIA) program celebrates female farmers, producers, educators, and those who have worked in various ways to strengthen our agriculture community in the past and present. We laud their achievements. The 2023 recipients were honored during a reception at the State Fair of West Virginia on Sunday, August 13.

“Today, women make up more than a third of the farmers in West Virginia, but women have been involved in agriculture in the Mountain State for centuries. As we try to replace the aging farmer, we will need more women to step up to lead operations,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “The women we are honoring this year have paved the way for females in the industry. Each have played a vital role in West Virginia agriculture.”

**Marsha Waybright**
Laurel Fork Farm
Tucker and Randolph Counties
Marsha has many talents and uses them to educate others about conserving and preserving traditional life skills and all things agriculture. Her agriculture roots run deep. For 20 years, she was a dairy goat farmer who relied upon her skills as a master artisan to make goat milk soap which she sold in dozens of stores in West Virginia. She is a master gardener and herbalist who applies that knowledge to local beautification projects, growing crops for her family, her three businesses and the public. Marsha’s unique, 200-acre farm is home to Laurel River Club B&B, Laurel Fork Farm, and the West Virginia School of Traditional Skills. She owns and operates all three with her family. Laurel Mountain Farm was named Tucker
Rachel Taylor
Frostmore Farm
Pocahontas County

Although Rachel didn’t grow up on a farm, her love of agriculture blossomed over the years. In 2009, she became co-owner of Frostmore Farms. The farms are split between Dunmore where she operates a 257-acre maple operation and a 40-acre farm in Arborvale that includes U-pick blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, pumpkin, and sunflower patches. In 2013, Rachel and her husband Adam turned their hobby of making maple syrup into a business. She attended Cornell University Maple Camp, and they invested in new equipment. They have grown the business over the past decade into one of the most successful in the state. Along the way, she has served as the Secretary of the WV Maple Syrup Producers Association. She also helps other producers, implementing STEM maple tapping experience.

Rachel's Recipe for Success: “Equal parts hard work, education/research, good mentors/support system and a dash of good luck.”

Cristy L. Jones
USDA - Farm Service Agency
Raleigh County

Cristy has spent her life involved in agriculture in one form or another. Both of her grandfathers were farmers, and she was by their side from the time she could walk. They instilled in her a love of farming and showed her the benefits of rural life. After high school, she took a temporary job with the USDA-Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS), the predecessor of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Thirty-two years later, she’s still in that position, serving the farmers and public in six counties of southern West Virginia. She works with other agencies to develop plans that address concerns or problems individual farmers may have and ensures they understand the processes, requirements, and compliance issues. She enjoys meeting farmers and seeing their love of the land.

Cristy lives by this motto: “Each day is a gift, a fresh new start. Put your heart into it!”

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By Emily Morrow, WVU Extension Agent – Jefferson County

If you’re reading this, chances are you have had some sort of interaction with the soil this year – whether that be through a garden, hay or pasture field, or an agronomic crop. No matter the crop you are trying to grow, your harvest is limited by your soil’s capabilities. Fall is an excellent time to get your soil tested. It allows enough time to make decisions about nutrient management applications, and if your soil needs lime to raise pH, it allots enough time for the lime to react with the soil ahead of next year’s growing season.

How do I sample?

This is the most frequent question I get in my office. A good soil test report is dependent on taking a good soil sample. The more samples, the better, as the results are meant to represent an average of nutrients across your field. The best way to take a sample is to dig a hole with a small garden spade to about 4 inches for lawns, hay, or pasture, or 6 to 8 inches deep for row crops or gardens. Once you’ve dug your hole, back the spade up and take a cross-section of soil, almost like a cake slice. You also can use a soil sampling probe, which many county offices have available for borrowing. Some may charge a refundable deposit for the use of the tool.

For areas under 1 acre, it is recommended to take seven to 10 samples to make up your
composite soil sample. For areas over 1 acre, take 15 to 20 samples. For very large fields, it is recommended to submit multiple samples. For each field, mix all the collected samples together, break up any clods, and remove anything that is not soil – rocks, roots, bugs, and other plant material.

Let the sample air dry, place 1 cup of the mixed sample in a plastic bag and attach a completed soil testing form from the WVU Soil Testing Lab to the bag. You’ll give the sample a name under “Sample ID,” and this is just for your benefit if you send in multiple samples (think West Front Field, or Home Place). I also recommend you label the bag with your sample ID and last name. Once the sample is received in Morgantown, results will take around two weeks, potentially a little longer if the lab is receiving a high volume of samples. The soil sample form can be found at soiltesting.wvu.edu, along with mailing instructions.

Reading results

Now that you have the report in hand, what do you do with it? You have to consider the type of fertilizer you plan to use. Different formulations will come with different price tags and different rates needed based on your results. Additives like compost or manure are slower releasing, which is good news for the long-term benefit of your soil health.

The soil test report lists two separate recommendations for fertilizer – A) Crop Sufficiency Rate and B) Build to Optimum Rate. Column A will mean less inputs, as it’s the level the crop needs just to get it through the upcoming growing season. Column B is where you’ll look if you’re wanting to build up soil fertility in the long term. In times of penny-pinching, higher than normal fertilizer prices, or on rented ground, you’ll want to look at column A.
When interpreting fertilizer numbers, look toward our example soil test result. This soil needs, at minimum, 22 pounds of potassium oxide (K₂O) per acre. If we are to use a fertilizer like potash, this fertilizer has a formulation of 0-0-60. These numbers represent the percent of that fertilizer to contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, in that order. For every 10 pounds of potash, your soil will only receive 6 pounds, or 60% of those 10 pounds, of potassium. There is a little extra math involved to convert the potassium within the fertilizer to the K₂O the plant will uptake. Plants can only use potassium and phosphorus when they are in a solution form, which is represented on the soil test form as K₂O and P₂O₅, respectively. When this conversion is done, it means our example soil test will need 36.7 pounds per acre of potash fertilizer to supply 22 pounds per acre of K₂O from the soil test report.

**Run the numbers**

If the last few years taught us anything, it is that fertilizer can get expensive. WVU Extension has a calculator to help break down the cost per acre for various fertilizer blends, even if you’re using more than one. Simply put in the recent prices per ton, how much N, P₂O₅ and K₂O you plan to apply, and the calculator will give you the cost per acre. Watch how the figures change as you adjust the rates, but don’t forget to factor in spreading costs if you’re not doing this work yourself. The calculator is found online at extapps.wvu.edu/soiltesting/blended_fertilizer_calculator.cfm.

**Know your soil’s name**

Soils are grouped together and named based on similar characteristics – such as parent material, topsoil depth, and soil texture. The named soil is referred to as a soil series, with such names as Huntington, Monongahela, or Gilpin. Why does this matter? Different soil types have the potential to hold and distribute nutrients differently, which equates to different yield potential and different fertilizer needs. West Virginia has 195 named soil series, each one falling into one of five yield classes. A yield class one, for example, will be the highest productivity soil for farming.

To find your soil’s series, you can visit one of two websites:

1. websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov
2. casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/gmap/

The first option, managed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, gives the option to draw a field boundary, generate how many acres are in a field, and see the breakdown of different soil series within your field. This doesn’t mean the soil on the west side of the field is drastically different from the east just because they fall into different soil series. However, some properties of the soil within this field changed enough to warrant a change in soil series. It could be the fact that part of the field borders a creek or the topsoil changed from a deep silt loam to a shallower silty clay loam as you move uphill.

If you’re tech-savvy, you can find your way around these sites in no time. But if you’re not, feel free to call your local WVU Extension office and ask for help.

**When does it matter?**

Hay, pasture and row crop producers are in the best position if they know their soil series. The WVU Soil Testing Lab has estimated yield potential for these crops, so we can give you a more accurate fertilizer recommendation if we know your soil’s name. The example soil test results in the image reflect a soil sample taken in my neighborhood of Jefferson County with the Hagerstown soil series, being tested for an upcoming soybeans crop. Based on our research, this soil series has a yield potential of 35 bushels per acre.
What if my yields are better or worse?

Any yield information is really going to be beneficial toward fertilizer calculations. As an example, most soil samples for hay and pasture fields predict a yield anywhere between 3 tons per acre to 4.5 tons per acre, depending on if you include soil series. Now, we all know yield is a gamble and dependent on weather, fertilization, planting/harvest dates, weed control, pest management, and many other factors. This is under the best possible conditions, so if that hay field is only ever churning out 2 tons per acre, but the fertilizer recommendations are for 4 tons per acre, reduce the recommended application rate of both phosphorus and potassium by the corresponding amount. You as the producer are the one who knows that and can adjust your fertilization rate to fit.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help

Your county WVU Extension agent can generate a new report with a different crop code, one that factors in a soil series that wasn’t considered previously, or help you with general fertilizer questions. And if you don’t have an Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in your local office, they can help get you connected with one who can answer those questions.

Fertrell will work with your soil test to help determine deficiencies. Balanced soils will produce better yields and healthier crops for your farm.

Special - 50% OFF our standard soil test during September, on samples received by Waypoint lab in Leola PA by 9/29/2023.

Contact a local Fertrell Representative through our online locator at www.fertrell.com or Fertrell’s main office at 800-347-1566 to get further information on soil testing.
We understand building a new home can be challenging.

Farm Credit offers easy financing options, like one loan for both construction and land. That means one interest rate and one closing. Contact us today to discuss your options.
Highlights from the 2023 Northeast Presidents and Administrators Conference

West Virginia Farm Bureau was privileged to host the 2023 Northeast Presidents and Administrators Conference at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown from July 30th thru August 2nd. Nearly all of the 13 states within the region were represented at the meeting and everyone in attendance expressed their congratulations on hosting such an enjoyable and informative conference. Keynote speakers included Zippy Duval, AFBF President; Joby Young, AFBF Executive VP; Kent Leonhardt, WV Commissioner of Agriculture; Duane Simpson, Bayer Crop Science; and Matthew Wilson, Professor of Animal Sciences.

Joby Young and Zippy Duval speak to the growing concern of Farm Bureaus across the country, a shrinking membership.

Kent Leonhardt delivers his welcome message. Kent skillfully articulated the challenges we face in West Virginia agriculture while touting our successes.

Thanks go out to these conference sponsors:
West Virginia Farm Bureau President Charles Wilfong, WVFB Director of Governmental Affairs Dwayne O’Dell, AFBF President Zippy Duvall, and WVFB Administrator Steve Butler, posing for a photo at Orr’s Farm Market in Martinsburg, WV.

Attendees were treated to an afternoon of tours across the region which included the Appalachian Fruit Research Station, Orrs Farm Market, and the Aquaculture Research Center.

The wives were treated to a day of tours including Harpers Ferry and the Hillsborough Vineyards and Brewery.

Our WVU Ag Students did our state proud! Four students made presentations on Poultry Nutrition during the conference. Making the informative presentations were Elizabeth Lynch, Lucas Knarr, Emily Estanich, Kristina Bowen.
Growing a State and a Nation...

Telling the History of Agriculture in West Virginia Through Pictures and Stories

Writing an Academic Farm Family History and Why It Could Help Save Our World
by Mikaela I Poling and Craig R Dufresne

While previous columns in this series have discussed anecdotal stories from the history of farming in West Virginia, we describe our experience carrying out the independent, original research project to document the history of the Moss Farm of Sand Run, in Upshur County, which was used by the family to support their successful 2023 Farming Heritage Award application. While we both have an agricultural and history research background—one of us holding an ag degree (Craig) and the other being a West Virginia native raised on her family farm and holding a history degree (Mikaela), our experience with previous historical and medical research did not prepare us for the unique challenges of historical farm research. Though obstacles are many, we believe documenting farm families’ histories and their central role in developing and sustaining local communities is critical to preserving a complete picture of Appalachian cultural geography and economic history. People create history by their doing, their hard work and dedication, but to keep their legacy from being lost forever—along with our identity as an agrarian people, others must come after to tell it from the mountain top.

While it is difficult and tedious, professionally documenting a farm family history preserves our legacy—one family at a time—in permanent academic archives and ensures its discoverability, access, and availability to scholars and others who write larger histories, legislation, and other important books and documents that continually shape our world. While easier, self-publishing and other non-academic writing does not achieve this same level of impact or permanence. In our view, the greater effort required to climb every mountain to write an academic farm family history is worth it to reap the greater benefit to mankind. In considering the process of writing an academic farm family history, there are two major categories: possible sources of information and types of information. Unlike other areas of research where the type of information sought is the first hurdle to jump, research on farm families is bounded more by what sources for information are available, which will dictate the type and extent of historical information that can be gleaned. For example, the major reason we decided to conduct the research on the Moss Farm was because they had preserved financial records—including canceled checks, some correspondence, books, many household and farm artifacts, and a number of old family photographs. This archive provided important links between what was discovered in public records and oral histories we conducted with the farm founder’s grandchildren, providing a much stronger foundation for establishing facts to build upon than would have otherwise been possible. Without this documentation, a history of the Moss Farm would have been considerably constrained, with important details about farm infrastructure and financial activity missing, but it still would have been possible to describe some important aspects. We acknowledge that the availability of archives we enjoyed is probably unique and many may not have this luxury when going about writing an academic history of their farm family. But, if a family does have any preserved personal and financial papers, it is a huge help.
Irrespective of what other sources may be available, public records are probably the best place to begin piecing together an academic farm family history. Public records of interest may include: Census Schedules, marriage records, birth and death certificates, and records of civil and military service. Many historic public records are now available in online repositories, some of which may be accessed without fee, but it still may be necessary to contact or visit county courthouses to obtain marriage, deeds, and wills. When searching online repositories, it is important to consider that a given person may be listed in the scanned records but may not be discoverable in a keyword search, and hand searching of the particular scanned document of interest may be necessary.

Additionally, the same person’s name may be spelled several different ways, or different versions of their name may be recorded. In our work on the Moss Farm, we found Moss transcribed as Mop, Mass, and Mess, and the name of the father of the farm’s founder was sometimes recorded as John W Moss and William A Moss, both clearly referring to the same person.

While obtaining Agricultural Census Farm Schedules for the family farm would be ideal, this may not be feasible. In addition to the 1900 and 1910 records having been destroyed by fire, Agriculture Census data are not available in online repositories. Microfilm rolls or copies must be purchased directly from the National Archives and Records Administration, which is not inexpensive. Historic Population Census Schedules before 1950, which are generally available in online repositories, do include some agricultural information, including occupation, farm schedule number, farm type, and whether it is owned, leased, or mortgaged.

Other sources of farm family history include interviews (i.e., oral histories) and local self-published histories of communities and churches. These sources both have reliability problems and must be cross-checked with other sources or evidence. Ideally, oral histories should be recorded, but in our experience, people are happy to informally share what they remember but not if recorded. Sometimes, we asked people to text us a summary of the details they recalled, to which some were amenable. Local self-published histories are typically written by well-meaning people who are not very objective, accurate, and do not clearly indicate from where each piece of information originated. Unless there is no other option, these generally should not be used as sources for a farm family history.

After exhausting all family and publicly available sources, help from local historical societies to address narrow, well-focused, and developed questions that arise or remain unanswered may be available for a fee. Additionally, we found it very helpful to contact various subject matter experts, especially to make farm-specific maps using GIS.

The last area to consider for sources is to properly search the existing scholarly literature using abstracting services to find published academic papers that relate to or contrast with the farm family history to be written. This indicates the overall significance and importance of the work, places the farm family history in its proper academic context, and helps the audience understand what gaps in the academic literature it addresses. Unfortunately, there are few published academic papers as of this writing that are likely to directly relate to a West Virginia farm family history, so it may be necessary to extend the scope to farms in other geographic areas. To date, only three peer-reviewed journals cover West Virginia history and one covers farming history.

In addition to specifics about the family farm’s development, there are general types of information that should be included to present a full picture of the farm family, including: the historical context of each time period in which the farm existed, from where the family migrated and why they may have come to the area, worldview and politics of the family at the time of migration, location and livelihood of family members before migration, and ideally, country of origin and time period of immigration to North America. Historical context provides the overall framework to build the farm family history and guides research on the farm family. Historical context defined our efforts to describe the Moss Farm of Sand Run, and without it, there would have been almost no farm family history at all. It guided our efforts and held our drafted history together, guiding the reader through each stage of the farm’s development.

While it is beyond the scope of this column to detail the process for general academic article writing and journal submission, we hope our experience and lessons learned from our efforts to describe the Moss Farm of Sand Run, in Upshur County, will help others understand the unique practical aspects of writing an academic farm family history and the vital importance of doing so. Addressing unanswered questions or clarifying a topic in a logical and objective manner is the ultimate purpose of all academic writing. More than anything, our experience showed that no one is answering the question in academia of who built America and how did they do it. If an army marches on its stomach, surely a nation grows on its stomach. And, it’s the farm family, strengthened by their faith in God and choosing to do the hard things day in and day out, who powers the furnace of success. Let’s work to ensure that farm family is not forgotten.
Fuel for Full Days of Learning

(Family Features) Between morning routines, days spent in the classroom, extracurriculars and homework, it may seem like there’s never enough time in the day during the school year. However, making time for tasty meals and snacks doesn’t have to be another burden on jam-packed schedules.

These quick recipes for a flavorful twist on a breakfast favorite, easy-to-make sliders featuring kid-friendly flavors and delightful treats to enjoy at the end of the day can help keep little learners (and older family members, too) fueled up and ready to tackle all the school year throws their way.

Find more recipes to get you through busy back-to-school season at Culinary.net.

Pepperoni Pizza Sliders
Recipe adapted from MilkMeansMore.org

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 package slider rolls
- 1/2 cup pizza sauce
- 1/2 cup mini pepperoni
- 1 1/2 cups shredded, low-moisture, part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- nonstick cooking spray

**COOKING:**
Heat oven to 350 F.
Keeping rolls connected, cut sheet of rolls horizontally, separating tops from bottoms. Place bottom halves of rolls in baking dish. Spread pizza sauce evenly over bottom halves. Sprinkle pepperoni over sauce. Sprinkle mozzarella over pepperoni and cover with top halves of rolls.
Mix melted butter with parsley flakes, dried oregano, garlic powder and shredded Parmesan cheese. Spoon evenly over sliders. Cover baking dish with aluminum foil sprayed with nonstick cooking spray to keep cheese from sticking.
Bake 20 minutes.
Remove foil and bake additional 5-10 minutes, or until Parmesan is melted and golden brown.
Cut sliders and serve immediately.

Sausage French Toast Roll-Ups
A sizzling sausage link wrapped with French toast that combines a favorite breakfast protein and traditional deliciousness in one roll.
Servings: 12

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 12 sausage links
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 3 teaspoons almond extract
- 3 tablespoons butter
- syrup

**COOKING:**
In skillet, cook sausage links according to package directions. Set aside.
In medium bowl, whisk eggs, milk, almond extract and cinnamon. Dip bread slice in egg mixture. Wrap bread slice around cooked sausage link, pressing seam to keep from unrolling. Repeat with remaining bread slices and sausage links.
In large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Place roll-ups in skillet, seam-sides down, and cook until all sides are browned, approximately 10 minutes.
Drizzle with syrup.
Theme: Football

ACROSS
1. Brainchild
5. Gravestone wish
8. Paleozoic one
11. Pressing tool
12. Senegal’s neighbor
13. Literary theme
15. Scissors sound
16. Final notice
17. *Notre Dame’s Fighting ____
18. *Home of the first Super Bowl winners
20. National League Pennant series, acronym
21. Steer clear
22. “Glee” actress ____ Michele
23. Befuddled
26. *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
29. Fish story
30. Stockings
33. “Doggone it!”
35. Rand McNally book
37. Mozart’s “L’____ del Cairo”
38. Whiskey drinks?
39. Comedy act
40. Dead or Black, e.g.
42. Slow down
45. Roof supporter
47. High or low card
48. Employer’s good news
50. Hyperbolic tangent
51. *College player not using eligibility
52. Bearded person
56. Double-reed instrument
57. *Nike Pegasus 39
59. Smidgeons
60. Paddleboarding acronym, plural
61. Seaside bird
62. *Thirty- ____ teams in NFL
63. *Ravens’ or Lions’ time, acronym
64. *Rushing unit

DOWN
1. “ ____ Now or Never”
2. *Shoot!”
3. Arabian bigwig
4. Fund-raising letter
5. Torah teacher
6. Homer’s famous poem
7. Feel for
8. Larger-than-life
9. A Supreme singer
10. Emerald ____ borer
12. Poet’s death lament
13. Fungal skin infection
14. *Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida
19. Not odd
22. Lily, in French
23. Unfortunately, exclamatory
24. *a.k.a. Iron Mike
25. Charcuterie stores
26. Nibble away
27. Have faith
28. Rane’s wrap
31. Lummox
32. Calendar abbr.
34. Russian autocrat
36. *Home to College Football Hall of Fame
38. Secret supply
40. *Extra point
41. Van Gogh flowers
44. Partners of pains
46. Spirited
48. *College player not using eligibility
49. Take as one’s own
50. Think, archaic
51. Grand theft target
52. *The oldest college football Bowl
53. Actress Perlman
54. Millimeter of mercury
55. Took the bait
58. *Defensive one

"IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN." – FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Did You Know?
September is known as ‘Harvest Month’. In Old England, it was called Harveest-monath. Many harvest celebrations take place throughout the month.

September’s Full Moon is known as the Harvest moon.
The first day of Autumn typically falls on September 22 or 23. Known as the official end of summer, it marks the time when many kids go back to school.
Foxfire Realty congratulates Mya Carola and all of the youth and teen barrel horse riders who recently represented West Virginia proudly at the 2023 NBHA Youth & Teen World Championships in Georgia.

Foxfire Realty is #1 in the sale of land and farms in WV.

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304.645.7674 Office | 1029 Washington Street East | Lewisburg, WV 24901
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