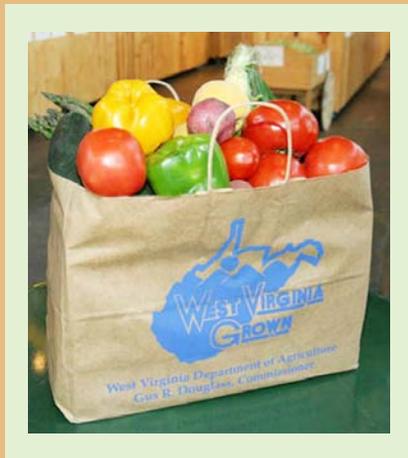
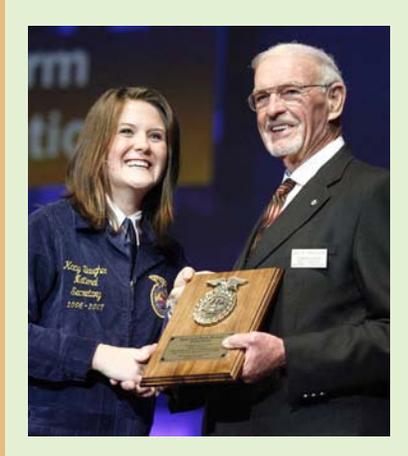
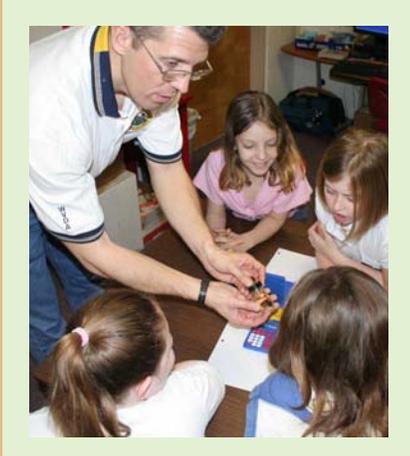




Annual Report

2007



West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

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West Virginia
Department of Agriculture
ANNUAL REPORT



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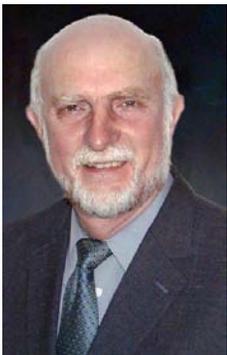
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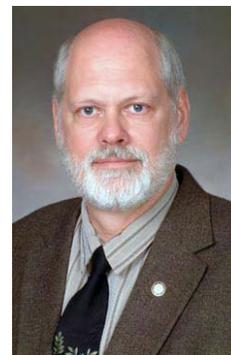
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EXECUTIVE DIVISION



The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is the state agency charged with protecting plant, animal and human health throughout the Mountain State. Every day, WVDA's staff of 300 knowledgeable and dedicated employees carry out a wide variety of missions – often behind the scenes – to ensure a healthy and bounteous food supply for the citizens of West Virginia, and to promote the great food products made in this state. The Executive Division provides strategic, administrative and financial oversight of the WVDA's eight Divisions, and directs emergency response activities related to public health and Homeland Security.



Today our food supply faces more threats than ever. The increased pace and volume of international trade means animal diseases can circle the globe in a fraction of the time it took in the past. And many of those diseases can be transmitted directly to humans. Our plants face similar threats from invasive diseases and pests. At the same time, our farmers face increasing input costs, as well as competition from foreign markets that, in some circumstances, do not follow the same food safety and environmental protection practices of U.S. producers.

Although the challenges are great, the opportunities for West Virginia agriculture are great. We lead the nation in the percentage of family-owned farms and have a growing agribusiness industry that is recognized worldwide for its high-quality products. Traditional agricultural pursuits, such as beef cattle farming and fruit and vegetable production, remain stable components of the state's economy.

In Fiscal Year 2007, West Virginia farmers faced a series of severe issues that greatly affected their operations, including disease and natural disaster.

In early April, 2007 WVDA laboratories detected avian influenza in a flock of full-grown turkeys at a Pendleton County farm. Within 24 hours of receiving confirmation from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, an emergency response team was on-site and commencing depopulation, disposal and decontami-

nation operations. Within one week, the birds had been humanely killed and prepared for on-farm composting.

As a result of ongoing emergency response training conducted by the WVDA, the incident was rapidly detected and quickly contained. However, the incident revealed that the mechanisms for purchasing response materials – such as the 20 tractor-trailer loads of mulch needed to compost a million pounds of turkey carcasses – were too slow for a rapidly evolving situation. As a result, Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass requested that the West Virginia Legislature create a \$1 million “Agricultural Rainy Day Fund” during the 2008 Session that could be drawn upon immediately during an agricultural emergency, and then later reimbursed by appropriate sources.

Agricultural Diversity in West Virginia
Broilers – 360 million pounds produced, 16th in country, Pilgrim's Pride leading employer in four counties. Huge multiplier effect.
Turkey – 93 million pounds, 14th in country.
Hay is state's leading crop – 1 million tons produced.
Apples – 90 million pounds, 10th in country.
Peaches – 10.5 million pounds, 16th in country.
Bees and honey – unique, flavorful varieties of honey, West Virginia bees frequently used to pollinate crops in other states.

Weather conditions were a major factor for WVDA and the state's farmers during the past fiscal year. Drought conditions in late-2006 threatened the state's growing beekeeping industry. Dry weather greatly reduced food source for bee colonies as winter approached. Notice by the WVDA, coupled with ongoing bee management education, minimized losses, but a late-spring freeze again took a toll on natural nectar supplies in parts of the state.

Honeybee deaths over the winter were about double the average, but the apiary found no sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) – the puzzling disappearance and presumable death of millions of bees in about two dozen states. State beekeepers said all the deaths they observed could be attributed to weather and food condition.

Drought became a major issue again in late-Spring 2007. A near-absence of rainfall, particularly in the southwestern portion of the state, parched livestock pastures, ruined hay crops and threatened water supplies.

Governor Joe Manchin, III, announced a drought emergency in 42 West Virginia counties (later expanded to include all counties), joining a growing list of southeast states affected by historic drought.

Many counties in the western part of the state had only about an inch of rain in May and June, rather than the normal 4-5 inches. The first cutting of hay was short 20-50 percent, while the second cutting was a total loss in many areas of the state. Most hay grown in West Virginia is used as winter feed for livestock, putting livestock producers in the undesirable position of buying winter feed or reducing herds. The WVDA advised livestock farmers to try to maintain their base herds by culling less-desirable cattle and harvesting the bottom 25 percent. Farmers were also urged to start looking ahead for fall feed sources.

The disaster declaration opened the door for federal aid for West Virginia's farmers, but with the current Farm Bill delayed in Congress, no financial aid appears to be in the works in the foreseeable future.

The drought appears to have been a factor regarding two other issues. The dry weather is believed to have suppressed a fungus that in normal years helps to limit gypsy moth populations. Without the fungus, gypsy moth populations boomed and nearly 78,000 acres of forest suffered defoliation, compared to around 17,000 acres in the previous year. Drought is also thought to have contributed to widespread outbreaks of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), a disease transmitted by biting midges that affects deer and cattle. A large number of deer deaths and a few cattle deaths were reported as a result of EHD, but effects on agriculture may not be apparent until calves are born in the spring, as EHD has been shown to cause

Positive Developments in West Virginia Agriculture
Number of farms up to 21,200 – Jan. 1, 2007.
75th Fairs and Festivals Convention – mid-January 2007.
Capitol Market 10th Anniversary – late January 2007.
WVDA mobile laboratory ready for service – February 1, 2007.
Record-setting FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale – March 12, 2007.
WVSU Biodiesel Project – mid-March 2007.

spontaneous abortions and birth defects.

Emerald ash borer (EAB), a highly destructive, non-native beetle that attacks ash trees – for some time suspected to be in West Virginia - was confirmed in Fayette County in late-2007. Larvae were discovered in a "trap tree" that had been prepared to survey for the beetle, which has been found previously in surrounding states.

Food security was a major issue for the WVDA during the past fiscal year. Numerous national recalls taxed the ability of field staff to check that products had been removed from retailers' shelves. Starting in September 2006 with a recall of spinach, there were approximately a half-dozen recalls that affected West Virginia consumers.

Some of the recalls revolved around unsafe products imported to the U.S. with little inspection oversight; others were the result of often unexplained contamination turning up in domestic produce.

Americans rightly expect a wholesome and unadulterated food supply and it is important to point out that America has the safest, most plentiful food supply in human history. However, continued scrutiny at the state and federal levels will be required to ensure continued consumer confidence in the food supply. Although seemingly non-stop recalls might make one doubt food safety, they are, in fact, a reassuring sign that the

food protection system is working.

Partially as a result of shaken consumer confidence and partly as a conservation measure, many consumers will seek to shop locally for their food in the coming year, a growing trend throughout the country. Shoppers are seeking locally produced agricultural goods of the highest quality that also use the least amount of petroleum to arrive at the dinner table.

This trend will bode well for farmers' markets and other buy-local initiatives. Seasonal farmers' markets can be found in every West Virginia county, and WVDA operates three year-round markets in Charleston, Logan and Inwood.



A press conference was held in late June 2007 after a dry Spring and Summer which turned into a severe drought. Governor Manchin announced a drought emergency in 42 counties (later expanded to include all counties) while farmers suffered extreme hay losses, parched livestock pastures and threatened water supplies.

Since 1994, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began publishing the National Directory of Farmers' Markets which lists all farmers' markets operating in the U.S., the number of farmers' markets has grown from 1,755 (in 1994) to 4,385 (in 2006).

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides approximately 35,000 eligible West Virginians with \$20 worth of vouchers annually to redeem at participating markets and stands. Participating in the SFMNP in West Virginia during the past fiscal year were 301 farmers, 75 farm stands and 9 cooperatives that buy and sell produce from local farmers.

Funding has been requested from the West Virginia Legislature to develop four more year-round markets to capitalize on the trend away from "faceless food," provide a larger, more visible market for West Virginia Grown products, and to provide consumers with fresh, local food.



Efforts have continued to promote agri-tourism development in West Virginia. A directory of agri-tourism attractions will be published in early-2008 to guide travelers to attractions in our state.

The Collaborative for the 21st Century Appalachia's website (www.wvfarm2u.org) - partially underwritten by a grant from WVDA - will help consumers find locally produced foods in each county, and will allow chefs and farmers to easily communicate produce needs and availability.

Efforts have continued to promote agri-tourism development in West Virginia. Two conferences aimed at existing entrepreneurs and those considering an agri-tourism venture were held during the fiscal year, and more are being planned for the coming year. A directory of agri-tourism attractions will be published in early-2008 to guide travelers to attractions in our state.

Agri-tourism and "eat locally" initiatives are ways WVDA works to boost the bottom line of small farmers throughout West Virginia. However, the state continues to lose farmland to other uses, particularly in the state's eastern panhandle. Over the past decade, approximately half of orchard acreage has been lost to urbanization. Much of the state's most productive farmlands are located in the eastern panhandle and they face extreme development pressure from the urban sprawl surrounding Washington, D.C., and its suburbs.

As a result, a number of counties have established farmland protection programs under a voluntary program passed by the West Virginia Legislature in 2001. The programs are funded by a local tax on real estate transfers. The funds generated are used as matching money for federal dollars.



The annual FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale set two national records for individual sales March 12, 2007 and crossed the \$1 million threshold in total sales 67 years after the first such auction was held in 1941.

Currently, 16 of the state's 55 counties have operating farmland protection boards with transfer taxes in place, two have operational boards but no transfer tax, and 11 more are working to develop programs. Since its inception through January 2007, approximately 6,000 acres have been protected under the program. However, many times that acreage is consumed by development in West Virginia during the same amount of time.

The annual FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale set two national records for individual sales March 12, 2007, and crossed the \$1 million threshold in total sales 67 years after the first such auction was held in 1941. Overall, the 2007 auction brought in \$46,405 for FFA students, who typically use proceeds to fund a livestock project for the following year, or to help pay for college.



A Busy Year for Emergencies for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Spinach recall – September 2006	Colony Collapse Disorder – late mid-February 2007
Taco Bell / green onions – late-fall 2006	Equine herpes in Virginia – early March 2007
Ballard's recall – late October 2006	Quarantined greyhounds – mid-March 2007
90 cattle poisoned in Jefferson County – early January 2007	Massive pet food recall – mid-March 2007
Freeze destroys California citrus – mid-January 2007	Avian influenza incident – early April 2007
Taco John's lettuce recall – mid-January 2007	Ramps in decline – early April 2007
Intersex sunfish in Potomac basin – late January 2007	Fruit crop freeze damage – mid-April 2007
Peter Pan peanut butter recall – February 2007	Major drought in majority of state – mid-May 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



This Division provides effective, efficient management and administration of fiscal resources and physical facilities for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA).



This division is comprised of two distinct sections: Fiscal Management and Building and Grounds. Both sections provide critical support and assist in providing continuing operations to all other WVDA programs as well as the WVCA. It also provides fiscal support for the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority (WVALPA).

Fiscal Management

The Fiscal Management section audits, processes and monitors all financial transactions of the WVDA and the WVCA. The scope of responsibility for this activity encompasses many areas and requires application of specialized knowledge of state and federal statutes and regulations including:

WV State Code §19, which defines WVDA's role and responsibilities;

- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles;
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board pronouncements;
- Internal Revenue Service regulations;
- Federal Office of Management and Budget's Circulars for Federal Funds Administration, Accounting and Audit;
- Various state and federal wage and hour, labor, payroll and personnel regulations;
- Public resource management and procedural requirements of the State Auditor's, Treasurer's and Attorney General's Offices and the Department of Administration's Budget Office and Purchasing Division.

The financial activities carried out by the Fiscal Management section support the other WVDA and WVCA functional units through the following areas:

General Fiscal Management

This section is charged with many fiscal management responsibilities including the completion of all documentation required for the state's annual budget cycle. Information is compiled to develop appropriation requests (including personal services and fringe benefits cost estimates). Throughout the budget process, this section provides supplemental information, fiscal notes and special reports to the Legislature. Expenditure schedules are developed in accordance with legislative appropriation and are monitored and amended as necessary throughout the year. This information is also used to provide monthly financial reports of expenditure and revenue to the various divisions within WVDA and WVCA. At the state's fiscal year-end, this section compiles revenue and expenditure data for various year-end reporting.

The Fiscal Management section is also responsible for development of internal policies and procedures, including department travel regulations. Compliance audits are then conducted on actual activities against the various policies and procedures.

Other fiscal management responsibilities of this office include the administration of the WV Rural Rehabilitation Loan Fund, compilation of data in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, maintenance of vehicle and property lease information and administration of fiscal activity for the Charleston, Inwood and Logan Farmers' Markets.

Procurement and Accounts Payable

The Fiscal Management section is responsible for the administration of the procurement of goods and services and the subsequent payment processing for those goods and services. All purchase requests are audited to ensure compliance with all applicable purchasing guidelines and funding allocations. Vendor, inter-agency and employee reimbursement payments are processed with the West Virginia Financial Information Management System (WVFIMS). This information is then used to close out purchase orders or contracts, properly record additions to the fixed asset inventory, and any other post-payment actions that may be necessary. The Fiscal Management section also administers the State Purchasing Card ("P-Card") and travel card programs. P-Card transactions are audited and posted on a monthly basis. All financial records related to the procurement process are retained for outside audit according to established record retention requirements.

Payroll Processing and Benefits Administration

Another Fiscal Management section responsibility is the maintenance of all WVDA and WVCA personnel files, payroll and employee benefit data. Payroll is administered via the WV Auditor's EPICS system. This data is also used to prepare and process federal, state and benefits payroll withholdings. The payroll function includes monitoring and auditing employee leave data maintained in the Department of Administration's Online Leave System and providing training to designated timekeepers throughout WVDA and WVCA on maintaining the employee data in the leave system.

Other payroll duties carried out periodically include orientation and benefit enrollment for new employees, processing Worker's Compensation claim data and preparing the annual EEO report.

Federal Funds Management

Grants management responsibilities of the Fiscal Management section include compiling, recording and auditing numerous federal grants to ensure compliance. Federal grant programs have voluminous common grant rules and each grant has specific objectives that must be documented, tracked and audited for compliance. An extensive grants database is maintained which includes employees' time and all other expenditures charged to each grant. This documentation is required to comply with administrative requirements, federal cost principles and cost-sharing (matching) obligations and is used to draw down the federal funds to continue program operations. Federal funds management responsibilities must also account for differences in state and federal fiscal years and budget cycles. Additional emphasis is being placed on subrecipient monitoring (i.e., management of federal funds awarded to WVDA that are to be awarded to third parties to assist in carrying out the program) which increases audit responsibilities further.

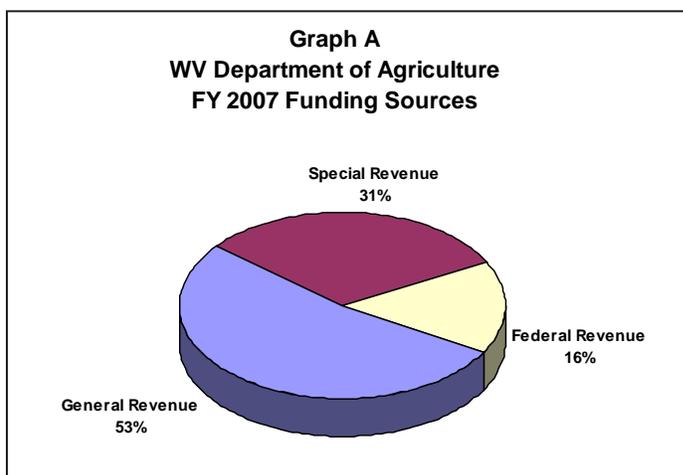
Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds section of the Administrative Services Division provides professional services to ensure continuity of internal operations at the Gus R. Douglass Agricultural Center at Guthrie and other Department-owned facilities throughout West Virginia. This group provides certified expertise in areas such as electrical, HVAC, and waste water treatment to ensure that the power, building climate, water and sewer requirements of the facilities function smoothly and are sufficient to meet the needs of the complex. Other services provided by Building and Grounds include security, plumbing, custodial, snow removal with salt applications for sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways, carpentry for repairs and alterations, and grounds maintenance for the safety and appearance of the Gus R. Douglass Agricultural Complex at Guthrie. The Building and Grounds section is also responsible for overseeing any building construction or renovation projects carried out by WVDA.

WVDA Fiscal Position

The WVDA is facing great difficulty in meeting its program mandates due to repeated budget cuts and ever increasing costs that are beyond our control. Special revenue income from fees is deficient in providing the total funding needed for those programs. Therefore, general revenue resources have been tapped to cover the deficiency and maintain program operations.

In recent years, we have received additional funding through federal grants to conduct specific programs for the benefit of our citizens. We continue to grow in both the number of grants and dollar amounts received, which is a positive trend for the state.



As displayed in Graph A, WVDA receives approximately 16 percent of its total funding from Federal Revenue and 31 percent from Special Revenue.

However, along with the additional federal awards come significant increases in the administrative and auditing requirements for this division and many federal awards have no or limited provision for direct personnel costs or administrative costs. We are investigating all possibilities of resources to cover the increasing costs of administering the grants. The same can be said for cost-sharing or matching requirements of federal funds. While WVDA has been successful in bringing a significant amount of federal funding for desperately needed programs into our state, these programs require matching from general revenue. Funding reductions on the state level negatively impact WVDA's ability to match federal programs and jeopardize federal awards.

The burden on general revenue to maintain operations of federal and non-federal programs is illustrated below. As displayed in Graph A, WVDA receives approximately 16 percent of its total funding from Federal Revenue and 31 percent from Special Revenue.

Graph B displays the funding breakdown of staffing costs. Al-

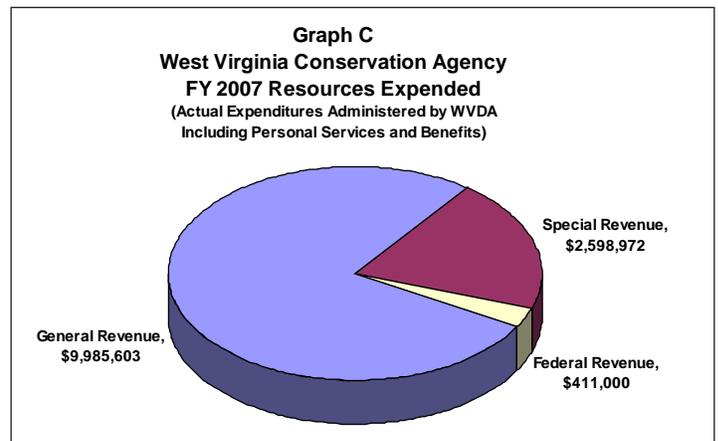
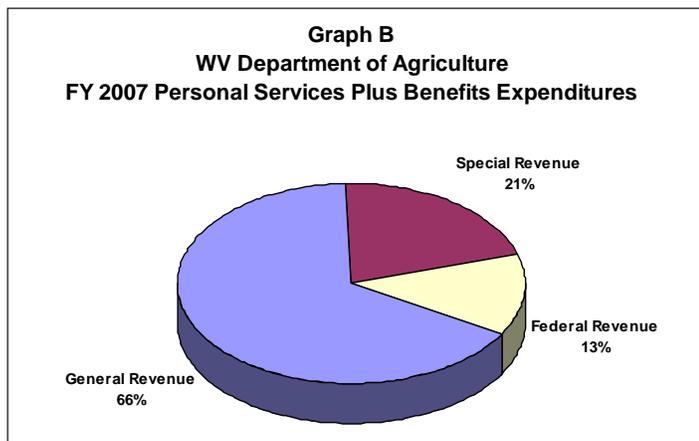
though we receive nearly 50 percent of our revenues for program operations from Special and Federal Revenue sources, they are only able to provide approximately one-third of the staffing costs to administer the programs.

West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority Support

The Administrative Services Division also provides fiscal administration for the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority (WVALPA), including all expenditure and payroll processing. Resources available to WVALPA for expenditure are included in the WV Department of Agriculture General Revenue information detailed above.

West Virginia Conservation Agency Support

The Division also provides full fiscal and payroll support for the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA). WVCA's resource expenditures administered by the Administrative Services Division are summarized in Graph C.



ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION



During Fiscal Year 2007, Animal Health Division continued disease surveillance at fairs, festivals and auction markets throughout the state. During the State Fair of West Virginia, Animal Health staff examined 1,200 incoming animals for signs of disease, and provided similar services at numerous other events around West Virginia.



The program to tag West Virginia calves with radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags at calf pools proved very successful. Animal Health staff provided labor and, through a grant, tags for “pools” of calves involved in herd improvement programs. Because the tags carry a unique identification number that can be instantly read into a computer, buyers could be assured of the age, place of birth and other factors affecting cattle marketability. Nearly 16,000 calves were marketed in this way over the past year. Overall, the program provided almost \$1 million in premiums to sellers, or \$2,500 per participating producer, on average.

The most serious incident involving Animal Health occurred in early April, when the Division responded to an outbreak of low-pathogenicity avian influenza at a Pendleton County turkey farm. A response team was on site in less than 24 hours from the time the case was confirmed.

The outbreak necessitated a rapid accumulation of manpower and material to destroy and dispose of the birds before the disease could spread from the farm. Within a week, workers had depopulated 26,000, 40-pound turkeys, and began on-farm composting of the carcasses.

POULTRY INDUSTRY

West Virginia is primarily comprised of meat-type chicken and turkey producers and their parent hatching egg production flocks. This program has progressed positively with cooperation between WVDA, USDA, and the various poultry companies in the state.

Commercial poultry is the state’s largest agricultural sector, with a \$220 million annual value of production. Poultry disease surveillance is essential to protect a valuable rural industry, and to ensure that foreign markets remain open to U.S. poultry.

The discovery of low-pathogenicity avian influenza was made through ongoing disease surveillance that tests each and every flock before it leaves a farm for slaughter, which the industry has voluntarily agreed to implement because of the free sample analysis offered through the laboratories at the Moorefield Regional Agricultural Complex.

Response to the incident benefited greatly from National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, along with periodic review of, and exercise related to, the state’s avian influenza (AI) response plan.



WVDA Emergency Response Teams responded to a Pendleton County farm that had an outbreak of low-pathogenicity Avian Influenza in April 2007. Response to the incident benefited greatly from National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, along with periodic review of, and exercise related to, the state’s avian influenza (AI) response plan.

Response to the incident benefited greatly from National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, along with periodic review of, and exercise related to, the state’s avian influenza (AI) response plan.



The ability for West Virginia to adequately monitor and survey for Avian Influenza will be dependant on the funding offered by USDA/APHIS to carry out the extensive activities to be completed under this agreement. WVDA will make additions to its field personnel to complete extensive outreach, education, monitoring and testing. In addition, it is imperative to locate and identify waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird breeding flocks.

Activities under the AI programs include the purchase of needed equipment to handle the supplementary testing being completed in the Moorefield Laboratory.

West Virginia's main focus in the poultry industry, to this point, has been on the commercial arena. To carry out objectives, Animal Health Division must move some of its focus to the lack of information regarding non-commercial flocks in the state.

Animal Health Division is registering non-commercial poultry owners and has implemented an education program aimed toward owners of small, non-commercial poultry flocks and small-scale sales operations, such as auctions, flea markets, swap meets, farmers markets, and feed stores.

The goal is to make those communities aware of good biosecurity practices and the danger avian influenza poses to their birds and West Virginia's commercial poultry industry. AI surveillance and control of this disease is essential to maintain free international trade and eliminate production losses due to infection.

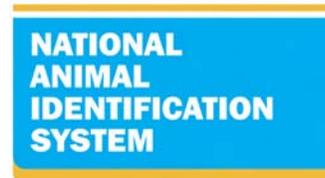
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exhibitions, swaps, shows, fairs, markets and other types of sales is necessary and is currently underway.

In West Virginia there are 16 commercial shooting preserves that raise upland game birds for release or purchase. There are 34 Game Farm License Dealers (birds only) that are licensed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section. An agreement with USDA allows for testing and surveillance of these premises for AI.

NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

WVDA continues to be recognized as one of the leaders in the nation in registering farm premises in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Coupled with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and computer technology, the program's goal is to establish an animal tracking system that will allow a 48-hour trace-back on any animal disease outbreak.



Visit www.animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml for more information or call the WVDA's Animal Health Division at 304/558-2214.

USDA has offered several strategic plans on this program's implementation schedule. With each draft of this plan, West Virginia continues to surpass national standards. Staff has been successful in registering nearly two-thirds of the livestock premises in the state since the inception

Animal Health has continued its cooperative efforts with USDA-APHIS-VS by applying for and acquiring funding to carry out activities under several Cooperative Agreements. These Agreements offer funding to the division to carry out federally approved and sponsored programs (see list below).

Approved until December 2007:

Johne's Disease in Cattle

Scrapie in Sheep

Garbage Feeding to Swine

Laboratory

Foreign Animal Disease Response (FAD)

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Avian Influenza-project period from:

- National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)
- * Low Path Avian Influenza (LPAI)
- NPIP High Path AI (HPAI) Supplemental
- Live Bird Market System
- Upland Game Bird

There are several programs Animal Health will re-apply for from January 2008 to December 2008:
Johne's Disease in Cattle
Garbage Feeding in Swine
Laboratory
Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Response
National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
Scrapie in Sheep
The Division received \$40,000 from a State Department of Health and Human Resources' grant for the purchase of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). The Co-operative Agreements that have taken priority in the Division are the four avian influenza programs, NAIS and FAD. USDA-APHIS-VS has requested our involvement in the AI Cooperative Agreements, and we prioritize the programs due to the threat of AI arriving in the continental United States.

DISEASE STATUS

In West Virginia, brucellosis in cattle was declared eradicated in 1986. Swine brucellosis was declared eradicated in 1989, and swine pseudorabies was declared eradicated in the United States in 2005. The state was declared bovine tuberculosis free in 1987. Also in 1987, West Virginia was declared a Salmonella pullorum (typhoid) and Mycoplasma gallisepticum clean state for turkeys by the USDA under the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

From July 2006 through June 2007, testing has been performed and reported to USDA-APHIS-VS pursuant to annual maintenance of West Virginia's disease-free certifications.

The laboratories at Guthrie and Moorefield complete an array of program testing and diagnostic testing from samples from West Virginia producers and veterinarians. Animal Health has continued its cooperative efforts with USDA-APHIS-VS by applying for and acquiring funding to carry out activities under several cooperative agreements. These agreements offer funding to the Division to carry out federally approved and sponsored programs. Field staff have been busy not only promoting the health of animals coming into markets, fairs/festivals, and special sales, they have been promoting federal producer assistance programs geared toward animal health.

of NAIS only a few years ago. This is one of the top rates in the country. This effort has been successful in large part due to the special funding provided by the West Virginia Legislature.

The WVDA has continued its focus on premise registration during the summer months with outreach and education. Our current registration is at 70 percent. That is nearly 8,801 of the 12,500 livestock premises in the state.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



Working cooperatively with the other Divisions, this division plays a large role in the WVDA's outreach and education efforts. With fewer and fewer people having any on-the-farm work experience, more and more people have little idea where their food actually comes from – and what it takes to keep their food supply safe and stable. Each month, Communications Division publishes the Market Bulletin, one of the most widely read publications in the state. It distributes news releases and maintains the WVDA website. Staff members produce Today in Agriculture, a monthly television show broadcast in the Charleston, Huntington, Logan and Clarksburg areas. The Division also works to publicize Department events and handles information requests from media and the public.



The Division focused on two very popular educational programs – Farm-City Week in November and National Agriculture Week in March. Through a poster contest themed “No Farm, No Food,” during Farm-City Week, students across the state were asked to think about and depict a world without farms. Hundreds of entries were received and nine winners were chosen in three grade levels. During National Agriculture Week, WVDA staff visited schools in southern West Virginia and provided a variety of educational activities ranging from Agriculture Jeopardy to a Bug Safari to a Hand-washing Station. Each activity provided students hands-on education and information about the WVDA and agriculture industry.

As an integral part of any possible agriculture-related emergency, Communications' staff continued their emergency response training with tabletop exercises and training courses in response tactics throughout the year.



Through a poster contest themed “No Farm, No Food,” during Farm-City Week in November 2007, students across the state were asked to think about and depict a world without farms. Winners attended an Awards Ceremony hosted jointly by the Communications and Marketing Divisions. Several students (above) were interviewed by local media on their poster ideas.



Left: A Communications staff member practices suiting up in proper biosecurity gear during a WVDA emergency response training exercise. Personnel are cross-trained for emergency response duties, regardless of regular job duties

The Market Bulletin remains the WVDA's most-requested publication, and for 90 years has been the state's leading source of agricultural information for farmers and non-farmers alike. A 12-page publication with educational articles, news releases and classified ads, the Bulletin strives to continually inform subscribers of the latest news and information in the agriculture industry. More than 60,000 copies are printed each month and electronic subscriptions continue to grow.



“Today in Agriculture” (the WVDA’s monthly public access television show) continued to provide the most-up-to-date agricultural news and information to West Virginia residents. The Program continued to evolve and incorporate a wider variety of news and information while supporting the main goal of the Division – to be the definitive source of agricultural information in West Virginia.

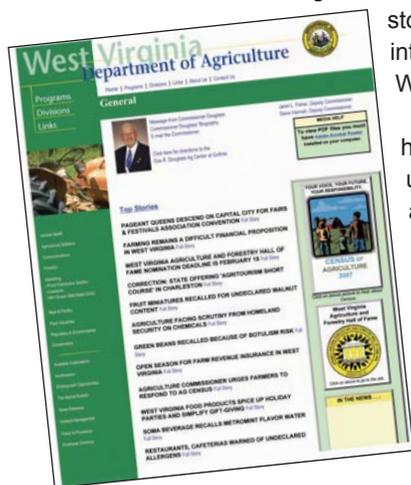
TIA is shot, edited, produced and hosted by Communications’ and Executive staff members and aired by the West Virginia Library Commission. Archived shows are available at the Library Television Network webpage (http://10.99.1.242:81/ltn/videomenu_TV.html). Communications added a new in-house studio in 2007 which enables various interviews to be shot in a professional setting.

TIA remains on the cutting edge of shows of its type, going into the field to bring viewers broad-interest agriculture stories from throughout West Virginia. Topics include stories on state agribusinesses and products and WVDA activities throughout the state to name a few. The show has a potential audience of more than 500,000 people in Charleston, Huntington, Logan and North-Central West Virginia. Library Commission staff is working to add Jefferson County to the show’s viewing area.

A unique opportunity presented itself to the WVDA in 2007 when “America’s Heartland,” a magazine-style, half-hour television series focusing on the people and processes that feed, fuel and clothe consumers here and around the world traveled to West Virginia. Communications staff worked with the producers and reporters on the show to feature several West Virginia industries including the Isis Arctic Char aquaculture facility in Logan, WV and the agribusiness Tasty Blend Foods in Fraziers Bottom, WV. The resulting pieces were shown across the country and posted on the “America’s Heartland” website (www.americasheartland.org).

Division staff members also continued to hone their skills in video production, working on several multi-media projects and logo redesigns.

The WVDA website is a cornerstone of the Department’s communications efforts. The goal for the site is to provide “one-stop shopping” for anyone interested in agriculture in West Virginia.



provides the media with regular news articles on matters of public interest.

In 2007, the website has seen numerous updates, in both content and design. The *Market Bulletin* is available for download from the website, and WVDA news releases are archived on the site. The Division develops and maintains a wide variety of educational materials and

Continually increasing content makes the site the best starting point for anyone with questions about West Virginia agriculture, and Communications Division is positioning the website as “one-stop-shopping” for interested citizens. Detailed information and numerous links lead viewers to a wide variety of agricultural statistics and information. Convenient contact information for key Department personnel is also readily accessible.

The grant-funded video equipment is also used to produce promotional and training videos for the Department. All production is done in-house, saving the state tens of thousands of dollars compared to the cost of commercial video production.

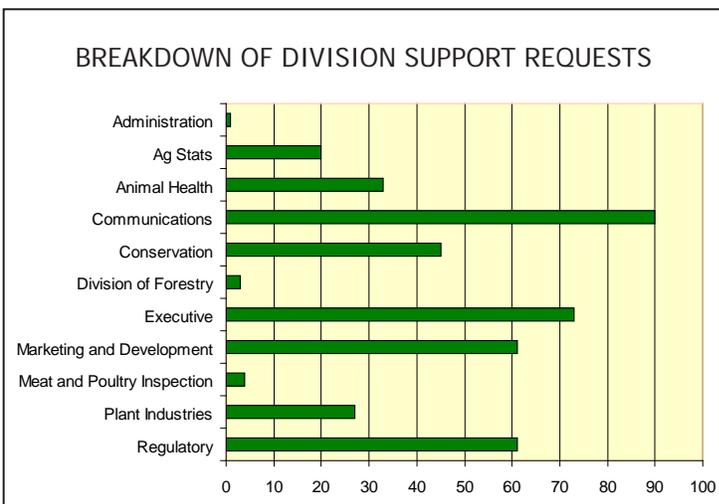


Communications Officer Buddy Davidson interviews Plant Industries Division Director Gary Gibson in the new television studio housed in the Communications Division.

Substantial savings have also been realized on production of *The Market Bulletin* through electronic subscriptions and improved mailing methods. Communications produced a postage savings of \$280,980 for the fiscal year.

Continuing cross-training among employees ensures organizational continuity and responsiveness to media and public inquiries. Communications staff has become more active in media relations and “Today in Agriculture” production, resulting in greater organizational flexibility.

The Division continued ongoing promotions, including substantial work with media at the State Fair of West Virginia and improved media materials for West Virginia agribusinesses attending the New York Fancy Foods show.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



The mission of the Information Technology (IT) Division is to provide technical support for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA). IT has operational, strategic, and fiscal responsibility for the innovation, implementation and advancement of technology within the WVDA and provides network administration, end-user support, and supports WVDA Information Systems.



2007 Highlights

Implemented PC Support Help Desk System to track and schedule division activities, monitor progress of trouble tickets, and inventory computer hardware and software.

Implemented DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) Server to automate internal Internet Protocol Addressing, allowing for easier management of all computer workstations.

Implemented computer system hard drive imaging to facilitate faster roll-outs of new Personal Computers and Laptops.

Consolidated two Network Domains into one and implemented a higher level of user security and better user and workstations management.

Implemented redundant servers to facilitate higher network uptime including: WINS (Windows Internet Name Service) Servers, DNS (Domain Name System) Servers, and Microsoft Active Directory Controllers.

Implemented new e-mail system and migrated all user accounts to new mail system without any service interruptions.

Established a technology procurement process to handle technology purchase requests from entire division in order to facilitate more technologically informed decisions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF ADDITIONS

Information Technology Director: In October of 2006, the WVDA added an Information Technology Director position. This individual is responsible for the Information Technology division, developing plans of action, supervising staff, ensuring all department-wide information technology requirements are met, developing division policies and procedures, and aiding in the budget process where it pertains to information technology purchases.

Electronic Mail System Administrator: In November of 2006, the WVDA added an Electronic Mail System Administrator to the staff. This individual led the migration to a new e-mail system and assisted in the network domain consolidation.

COMPUTER NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

Wide Area Network: Wide Area Network improvements were small, but significant, areas of improvement. Network routers and Ethernet switches were reconfigured to take advantage of new DNS (Domain Name System) servers and WINS (Windows Internet Name Service) servers. A TFTP (Trivial File Transfer Protocol) server was implemented to back up all working configuration files for all routers and Ethernet switches in all locations.

Local Area Network: Improvements in internal network addressing took place early 2007. The conversion started in March 2007 and finished up in June 2007. All computers at the Guthrie location had to be reconfigured to allow for the implementation of the DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) server. This server facilitates much easier network address management than was previously used within the department. The server was built using current hardware and software and required no additional expense.

Voice over Internet Protocol System: Upgrades to the Voice over Internet Protocol System were performed in August 2007. A specialist, certified in Cisco Voice Services, was brought in to ensure proper implementation of the latest software patches and configuration. The Voice over Internet Protocol system is used in every office that has Wide Area Network connectivity, reducing the cost associated with traditional phone lines. This also enables the department to implement new phone numbers internally quickly without going through service additions through a service provider.



Network Domain Consolidation: Because the WVDA had to acquire different pieces of the computer network over time and has always dealt with a limited budget, the network domain was implemented in a piecemeal approach. In late 2006 and early 2007, though, there were enough common components and expertise on staff to perform consolidation of the network domains. The WVDA consisted of four domains and has now consolidated to two. This facilitated the use of single sign-on for network file shares and e-mail allowing for greater and more controlled network security. The domain computers and users were also organized into meaningful groups reflecting the division structure allowing for far more intuitive management of network elements.

Electronic Mail System: In June of 2007, the new mail server was implemented, replacing a poorly configured mail server. End-users now have access to all e-mail through either the traditional mail client or a web interface utilizing encrypted security. The new mail system provides higher reliability, less management overhead, and greater managed capacity.

Disaster Recovery Plans: The WVDA was pleased to receive an improvement package for fiscal year 2008 that included mon-

ies for disaster recovery hardware and software. To prepare for the upcoming purchases, the IT Division started reconfiguring the network and network servers to enable future migration, and took the first steps in Disaster Recovery Plans. This included turning up redundancy for vital network services and, where appropriate, these services were turned up in geographically disparate offices. Although the real data redundancy will be implemented in fiscal year 2008, some services were turned up by June 2007, at little or no additional cost to the WVDA. On-site backups were reviewed, reconfigured, and re-implemented to provide two weeks of hard disk backups of network file and e-mail servers. The method used will be able to be modified to enable off-site backups in fiscal year 2008. The newly consolidated e-mail server will also give the ability to do an in-place upgrade to Exchange 2007 version which will allow for a redundant e-mail server to be placed in the Moorefield office.

Technology Procurement Process: The WVDA changed procedures for purchasing information technology equipment to channel all procurement requests through the IT Division. Information technology purchase requests are now evaluated, approved, modified, and/or rejected by Information Technology Division staff. This ensures new technology compatibility with current systems, better pricing for items, proper tracking and inventory of computer equipment, and reduces administrative burden on other divisions.

WVDA Personal Computer Support and Help Desk System: One of the most significant improvements for the department has been the implementation of a personal computer support and help desk system. The first of these systems was implemented in February of 2007 utilizing software that had already been purchased but never implemented. The help desk system provides the ability to document and track users' trouble and issue requests. The system provides indexing of historical trouble/resolution data and the dynamic building of a knowledge base. Hardware and software inventory are both tracked through the system and the system allows for hardware and software to be related to user's accounts to provide more information about user configurations. This allows technicians to more quickly evaluate, troubleshoot, and resolve user issues. The system gives management the ability to track technician's progress and provides alerts when tickets exceed pre-determined thresholds for repair time.

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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The primary goals of this division are to maximize opportunities in domestic and international markets for West Virginia food and agricultural products, to increase rural development and agricultural diversity, and to distribute, manage and account for food for West Virginia Child Nutrition Programs and qualified recipient agencies that serve needy families in West Virginia.



2007 Highlights

\$494,630 distributed to low-income senior citizens to purchase fresh West Virginia fruits and vegetables.
Graded 55,000 feeder cattle at special sales, livestock markets, and on-farm.
Total economic impact of WV Beef Cattle – \$400 million.
Graded 8,000 feeder lambs and slaughter lambs.
Expended more than \$8 million in federal funds through the Food Distribution Program, which serves 1,136 agencies and schools.
Involved more than 400 businesses in the West Virginia Grown Program.
Supplied 19 state institutions with fresh commodities of beef, pork and potatoes.
Strengthened agritourism and business development programs.
Collected 300 Market News Reports on over 90,000 livestock.
Inspected more than 67 million pounds of apples.
Inspected more than 400,000 pounds of apples for export to Central America.
Inspected more than 2.8 million pounds of peaches.
Sent 1,400 colonies of West Virginia bees to California for almond pollination for an economic impact of \$25,000.

Marketing and Development Division staff serves as the primary liaison for the WVDA to many commodity groups, including beef cattle, dairy, poultry, produce, small fruits, honey, processed foods, sheep, swine, horses, aquaculture, apples and peaches, and provides traditional marketing services, such as market price reports.

This constant contact with producers allows Division staff to identify and develop marketing opportunities as they arise. Efforts in this area were greatly aided in the past year by the West Virginia Specialty Foods Cooperative, and by combining efforts with the West Virginia Development Office. The Division gathers, assembles and publishes livestock market prices to aid producers in buying and selling decisions.

The Division manages four major institutional farms that utilize state lands to generate beef and other products for state institutions.

Staff members also serve critical roles in external partnerships and cooperative projects, including economic development boards and public health task forces.

Other activities within the Division include the licensing of public markets, livestock dealers, and others involved in commodity markets in West Virginia.

The Division's activities can be broken down into three primary areas: assistance to agribusinesses that manufacture value-added food products, management and oversight of food distribution programs, and traditional marketing services that aid producers in livestock and other commodities markets.



Agribusiness development in the state has seen phenomenal growth, due in part to the efforts of this division providing advice and technical expertise to new and growing companies.



WVDA participated in the Annual Cast Iron Cook-Off held at Stonewall Resort which raised funds to support "ProStart" culinary programs for secondary students.

45 West Virginia businesses were represented, with gross sales exceeding \$58,000 for the 10-day event.

An informal survey of state producers who attended the 2007 New York Fancy Foods Show revealed \$2 million in increased sales and contracts. Division staff led a delegation from the southern United States on a trade mission to China, and continued marketing efforts in North America at shows in Montreal, New York and Charlotte.

Agritourism

The receipt of a Federal State Market Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant served as the foundation for the West Virginia Agritourism Initiative. In 2007, more than 266 West Virginia agribusinesses submitted profiles for use in a printed agritourism resource guide. Educational outreach programs included a series of workshops in 2007, with a third scheduled for 2008. These programs featured participation by nationally recognized speakers, more than 100 West Virginia agritourism operations and program resources.

The Division of Tourism featured "Agritourism" month in August 2007 at the state's welcome centers. An information display and marketing materials from attractions in the regions highlighted the industry spotlight. In November 2006, the Division participated in the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism by speaking at both the statewide convention and visitor's bureau meeting and a general session during the meeting. In August, the Division worked with 24 agritourism businesses to develop a full page in the State Visitor's Guide with a printing of more than 350,000 copies. This publication will be available through the state 1-800-CALLWVA visitor service, Welcome Centers and national trade shows.

Three agritourism email newsletters were published to continue communication with farmers and operators. West Virginia participated in a regional agritourism forum during the Tennessee Agritourism Conference and met with peers to discuss ongoing programs and cooperative efforts and issues. The industry continues to develop within West Virginia and serves as an additional revenue and enterprise option for many West Virginia farmers. Future efforts include a searchable database available on the internet for travelers to reference West Virginia rural and agricultural destinations, funding to conduct an economic impact study on the industry, and continued education and outreach in this expanding niche market.

Agribusiness Development

Creating and building successful businesses continues to be a primary focus of this division. This is being achieved through public education, awareness-building, marketing and hands-on development of state companies. West Virginia producers benefit from the Division's continuing efforts to identify and expand into new markets within the state, as well as the surrounding region and in foreign countries.

Agribusiness development in the state has seen phenomenal growth, due in part to the efforts of this division providing advice and technical expertise to new and growing companies, including label development and approval, nutritional label development, kitchen facility research and location assistance, product, business and marketing plan development, FDA approval assistance, product education and process training.

A highlight of the 2007 year was the participation in the November Southern Christmas Show held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The WVDA, in cooperation with the Mountain RC&D and WV Division of Tourism, sponsored a 1,400-square-foot store featuring West Virginia Grown value-added products. Over

Agribusiness Development Highlights

- More than 400 agribusinesses in operation.
- Over 250 percent growth in start-ups of new agribusiness companies in the last 10 years.
- West Virginia agribusiness employment of over 1,500 people.
- Revenue impact of over \$100 million annually on the West Virginia economy.

Agribusiness Development Services

- Product development.
- Strategic planning.
- Raw material and resource identification.
- Water activity, pH and nutritional analysis services.
- Packaging and labeling assistance.
- FDA approval assistance.
- Partnership agency involvement.
- Product education and process training.
- Marketing and sales consulting.
- Product promotion opportunities.
- Distribution avenue assistance.



West Virginia Grown Program

The West Virginia Grown Program is a statewide, voluntary-enrollment, product recognition program with 400 participating companies and a wide variety of products represented, including food, dried flowers, bath and body care products, candles and herbal products. The assorted product lines range from one product to more than 60 and result in thousands of individual West Virginia-made consumer products being sold throughout the state, nation and world.



Apiary Program

This program is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the W.Va. Apiary Law of 2003. The Program promotes beekeeping as a branch of agriculture in West Virginia, while working to minimize the incidence of apiary diseases, parasitic mites and other pests through the inspection of apiaries and the destruction, sterilization and/or treatment of infected or infested honeybee colonies.

Program staff engages in numerous apiary-related activities and events that promote the growth of the apiary industry within the state. The program supports and assists in the exporting of honeybees outside state borders for crop pollination, which is developing into a new source of revenue and apiary growth for state beekeepers. Staff also participates in educational opportunities in various states that provide the most current industry knowledge available.

Program staff provides educational seminars about the various aspects of beekeeping to enhance apiary management skills, productivity and the overall health of honeybees, and provides consumer information to increase the sale and consumption of apiary products statewide.

Apiary Program Accomplishments
Registered 1,200 beekeepers maintaining 13,279 colonies in 1,779 apiaries.
Inspected 7,179 colonies in 810 apiaries.
Certified 1,406 colonies in 12 apiaries for interstate movement.
Diagnosed 20 cases of American Foul Brood disease involving 65 colonies.
Surveyed 4,546 colonies in 534 apiaries for Small Hive Beetle.
Conducted 168 educational/public relation activities.
Conducted a beekeeper assistance program providing additional inspection service.
Pollination assistance for state beekeepers by organizing shipments of honeybees for California pollination.
Graded over 1,400 colonies for almond pollination in California with an economic impact of \$25,000.
Assisted beekeepers in obtaining pollination contracts for the Eastern Seaboard.
Advisory letters alerting beekeepers of food shortages in the summers of 2006 and 2007 saving numerous hives from starvation.

Capitol Market

Capitol Market Highlights:

- Renewal of Holl's Chocolate lease for an additional year.
- Renewal of the Purple Onion lease for three years and added space for new product lines.
- Continued the Christmas Poinsettia Shoppe with Winter Floral.
- Continuation of the "Capitol Market Goes to the Capitol," a joint effort between DHHR, DNR, and WVDA to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the Capitol Complex employees. Sales increased 40 percent over the previous year.



Promotional Activities:

- Partnered with the Avampato Discovery Museum staff to provide children's activities.
- Sponsored the Honey Festival at the Capitol Market.
- Participation of Indoor and outdoor vendors in the Halloween Trick or Treat event.
- Participated in the Christmas season Santa Claus events.
- Participated in the St. Patrick's Day Green Chili Cook-Off.
- Continued West Virginia Product Tasting events at Perdue Grocery.
- Continued Wine Tasting events at the Wine Shoppe.
- Participated with the Department of Natural Resources to recycle unsold Christmas trees.

Logan Farmers' Market

The Market has continued in its growth and community recognition. Good service and good customer accessibility from Corridor G have become hallmarks of the Market, resulting in a clientele that stretches well beyond Logan County into surrounding communities. Many "home-canners" use the Market as their primary source of produce.

The Market also hosted a field trip of local elementary students, and the Kiwanis Club's annual apple butter-making project.

Inwood Farmers' Market

During this fiscal year 2006-2007, the Market was busy with the West Virginia Nutrition program.

The Market continues to provide Knouse Foods and Orr's Farm Market with cold storage space for apples along with other area growers utilizing half of the basement storage.

The Market also had two successful open houses and an apple sale this fiscal year.



Total revenue for the Market is as follows:

Resale Merchandise:	\$39,461.93	David Frye:	\$200.00
Consignment:	\$28,624.87	Larry Ashton:	\$3,050.00
Wine Sales:	\$17,277.00	Max Tyson:	\$3,700.00
Storage Netted:	\$67,545.88	Roses Gard. & Treas.:	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Storage Leased:	\$9,450.00		
Total:	\$162,359.68	Leased Total:	\$9,450.00

Food Distribution

This Program, under the guidance, direction and governance of the WVDA and The United States Department of Agriculture, provides economic support through food distribution to West Virginia Child Nutrition Programs and to qualified Recipient Agencies that serve low-income and needy families in West Virginia under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). These food items are provided by the USDA under price-support and surplus-removal legislation, by the Fresh Produce Program operated through the Department of Defense and the Food Processing Program of the WVDA.



The Food Distribution Program operates out of leased warehouse space of 66,000 square feet with 10,500 of that being freezer space and 1,700 square feet of cooler space. It is equipped with a fleet of refrigerated trucks, material handling equipment, storage facilities, and employees that allow for the receipt, allocation, delivery, monitoring, inspection, training, and other assistance to all West Virginia agencies that receive USDA commodities.

These recipient agencies currently include all 55 county school systems covering 709 schools; 53 additional child nutrition programs; 21 child and adult care feeding programs; two food banks serving 239 reported food pantries, and 57 homeless shelters, soup kitchens and other charitable organizations.

This equates to 188 agencies served directly by the Program and 948 sub-recipient agencies for a grand total of 1,136 agencies that receive commodities from the Food Distribution Program. Deliveries are made at least monthly, usually twice a month, and occasionally three times a month to each recipient agency. There are a few local agencies that pick up at the warehouse and several county school systems which utilize a commercial vendor for storage and further distribution.



The following tables summarize statistical data outlining the Number and Value of Cases Distributed for Fiscal Year 2007:

Cases Distributed Between 07/01/06 and 06/30/07

Program	Number of Cases	Dollar Value
Child Nutrition Programs		
Schools	255,334	\$6,446,387.25
CACF	1,941	\$51,266.94
Summer Foods Service	820	\$16,575.01
Total CNP	258,095	\$6,514,229.20
TEFAP		
Food Banks	124,085	\$1,667,066.73
Soup Kitchens	7,846	\$95,150.32
Total TEFAP	131,931	\$1,762,217.05
GRAND TOTALS	390,026	\$8,276,446.25

In addition to the regular Entitlement Allocations, the Food Distribution Program was allocated entitlement in the approximate amount of \$400,000 for the operations of the DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The following table outlines the produce items received and the quantity of each distributed during School Year 2006-2007:

Cases of DOD Fresh Produce Distributed to Schools Between 07/01/06 and 06/30/07

Item	Number of Cases	Dollar Value
Potatoes	1,514	\$16,252.79
Onions (White)	353	\$1,309.28
Onions (Red)	302	\$1,032.14
Onions (Yellow)	435	\$1,194.08
Romaine Lettuce	1,450	\$31,726.00
Baby Carrots - Individually Packed	3,642	\$88,775.56
Apples - Red Delicious (100s)	1,033	\$16,879.22
Apples, Red Delicious (113s)	1,755	\$28,676.70
Apple Slices - Individually Packed	7,356	\$92,759.16
Oranges	2,070	\$31,339.80
Tangerines	2123	\$27,386.70
Watermelons, Seedless	5,797	\$75,973.32
TOTAL CASES	27,830	\$413,304.75

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

One of the Division's most popular services is the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). West Virginia received \$494,630 for the Program in 2007 fiscal year, which is targeted at senior citizens who have an income level of 185 percent of the poverty level or below. The Program is available in all 55 West Virginia Counties. Eligible participants are allocated \$20 in \$2 coupons to be used at participating farmers' markets or farm stands to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The program is federally funded and benefits the state's large population of senior citizens, as well as numerous farmers throughout the state. A little over \$7,000 was invested in print media advertising to promote the program in 12 major markets across the state to make eligible seniors aware of the program and how to register for it.



Traditional Marketing Services

Traditional marketing services include grading, inspection services and price discovery opportunities. The grading and inspection services are provided for beef cattle, lambs, pigs, apples, peaches and all fruits and vegetables on a receiving-point basis. Price discovery, or market news, is the independent collection and dissemination of price information so individuals buying and selling the commodity may be aware of the unbiased price being paid on the open market. Market news is collected on feeder cattle, slaughter cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, goats, apples, peaches and tobacco.

Livestock Grading and Marketing Highlights

Feeder cattle and lamb grading services to approximately 12,000 West Virginia livestock farmers.

Collected livestock market news from 12 West Virginia auction markets.

Supervised 10,000 acres of state-owned properties to provide food for 19 state institutions.

Utilized 24,000 hours of inmate labor at Huttonsville and Pruntytown farms.

Beef Cattle Marketing

Twenty-two percent of the total gross revenue to farmers in West Virginia comes from the production of beef cattle throughout the state, and Division programs help provide additional value to state producers.

Livestock staff is responsible for the grading of feeder cattle and collecting market news throughout West Virginia. These services are provided at 10 livestock markets and one lamb pick-up station, as well as farm locations for the 12,000 West Virginia livestock producers.



Economists have known for a number of years that the multiplier effect in the beef cattle business has yielded approximately \$5-\$6 per dollar produced at the farm location. Farmers generally take money that has been received for the livestock sold and reinvest it in fertilizer, feed and other farm items; therefore, the total economic value of the West Virginia beef cattle business ranges from \$400-\$500 million.

Staff utilized the USDA Feeder Cattle Grade Standards in evaluating feeder calves and yearlings located throughout West Virginia. Additional information collected included the vaccination program, weigh-up conditions, and other pertinent livestock marketing information to West Virginia farmers and auction markets. This program provided beef cattle cash sales of \$14.5 in 2006. This outstanding marketing program has been extremely successful and continues to see growth at approximately 5-6 percent per year. Livestock staff graded an additional 44,000 feeder cattle and yearlings in our in-barn sales with an overall economic value of approximately \$35 million.

Marketing of Other Livestock

West Virginia has a large livestock industry outside of cattle. Staff worked with commercial and purebred shepherds, equestrians and swine producers to promote West Virginia-raised livestock. Staff provided lamb grading services to one lamb pick-up station and other livestock auction markets. More than 7,000 lambs with a value of \$700,000 were graded during the past fiscal year.

According to the 2007 Agriculture Statistical information, West Virginia had an inventory of 32,000 sheep and lambs, 11,000 swine, and 21,000 goats with a total inventory value (not including equine and goats due to the lack of statistical information) of over 5.3 million dollars.

The equine industry, according to the WVU West Virginia Equine Economic Impact Study, estimates 56,800 equine in the state with a value of \$8.6 million dollars.

Market News Collection

Staff collected market news on approximately 90,000 livestock during the past year. These reports were made and collected on more than 300 livestock sales throughout the year.

All livestock market data is collected by our independent specialists and is forwarded to the Charleston office. This information is assembled and made available via an automated telephone system and the internet, and is made a part of the national USDA market news reporting system that is available 24 hours a day to farmers and other interested individuals.

State-owned Farms/Institutional Food Production

The Division operates state-owned farms at Huttonsville, Pruntytown and Lakin facilities. These farms continue to produce beef, pork and potatoes for 19 public institutions operated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia Department of Corrections, and the West Virginia Department of Juvenile Services.

The Division maintains an approximate inventory of 1,750 beef cattle and hogs. During the past year, 737 beef, 533 pork, and over 76,550 pounds of potatoes were delivered at various locations throughout West Virginia. Total wholesale value of the product was \$674,062.94, up 17 percent over the previous year.

Over 15,000 pounds were marketed through the WVDA farmers' markets in Charleston, Logan and Inwood.

More than 25,000 hours of inmate labor were utilized at the Huttonsville and Pruntytown farm locations. The farms provide a positive work experience and job skills for inmates housed at various facilities.

Staff has done an outstanding job of taking on more specific responsibilities with inmate supervision, beef cattle production, potato production and improved machinery and facility operation and maintenance schedules. With limited staff, the programs have gone forward in a very productive fashion. Several improvement projects were completed at the farms during the past fiscal year:

- Applied over 500 tons of lime for pasture improvement.
- New high-tensile fence constructed.
- Participated in WVU/WVDA research on weaning to benefit West Virginia farmers.
- Upgraded feed lot facilities at Huttonsville Farm.

The Lands Section also maintains a number of leases with local entities and the Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) to allow for public hunting.

General John McCausland Memorial Farm

This demonstration facility's primary objective is beef cattle production. During the past year, farm staff was responsible for the management of approximately 100 spring-calving beef cows. The herd achieved a calving rate of 95 percent. Eighty acres field corn was also produced with over 22 ton/acre silage production and 600 round bales of hay were harvested.

Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service	
Fresh Pack Inspection Fees Collected – TOTAL \$10,632.52	
Fresh Pack Products Inspected:	
Peaches	
25-lb. cartons – 68,248 – 1,706,200 lbs.	
30-lb. cartons – 10,850 – 325,500 lbs.	
38-lb. cartons – 5,832 – 221,616 lbs.	
TOTAL	84,930 - 2,253,316 lbs.
Apples	
12/3 lb. (36 lb.) - 62,888 cartons - 2,263,968 lbs.	
8/5 lb. (40 lb.) - 13,819 cartons - 552,760 lbs.	
T/P (40 lb.) - 102,781 cartons - 4,111,240 lbs.	
Bushel (40 lb.) - 18,442 cartons - 737,680 lbs.	
TOTAL	197,930 cartons - 7,665,648 lbs.
Processing Inspection Fees Collected – TOTAL \$20,733.72	
Processing Products Inspected:	
Peaches: 11,822 Bushels – (50 lb.) 591,100 lbs.	
Apples: 1,484,018 Bushels – (40 lb.) 59,360,720 lbs.	

MEAT & POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION



Meat and Poultry Inspection Division regulates the slaughter and handling of animals at approximately 50 custom and commercial plants throughout the state. The meat processed and inspected at these facilities must be grown, processed and sold in West Virginia to be regulated by the Division. State inspectors are on-hand in these facilities every day and they have the authority to hold any suspect animal out of the food supply. They may also halt operations at any facility deemed to be operating in an unsanitary fashion. West Virginia's program is the only one in the country to have received USDA's highest possible rating in its past three evaluations. There has never been a recall from a state-inspected plant because of WVDA's close oversight of meat processors.



Quietly ensuring that West Virginia consumers receive only safe and wholesome meat products from West Virginia producers, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division (MPID) passed yet another year with no recalls of state-inspected products, which totaled 3.4 million pounds in fiscal year 2007. Although pending legislation in Congress might open state borders to state-inspected products, current law prohibits state-inspected products from crossing state lines.

In light of numerous national recalls, MPID has placed an increased emphasis on food safety aspects of its inspections – such as testing for *E. coli*, *listeria* and *salmonella* – while slightly reducing consumer protection functions such as fat-content testing.

The West Virginia Meat and Poultry Inspection program was certified as “at least equal to” the federal meat and poultry inspection programs in every regard, following a detailed self-assessment and a comprehensive on-site review by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) in spring 2007. The review is required under the provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act.

During Fiscal Year 2007, MPID inspected 47 commercial and custom slaughter and/or meat processing establishments and 161 meat and poultry distributors. The Division provided continuous slaughter inspections and daily meat and poultry processing inspection at 22 commercial establishments.

Daily plant inspections utilized the Performance-Based Inspection System (PBIS). The computer-driven system is a sophisticated inspection tool based on public health risk-assessment principles.

The system eliminates the inspector's subjectivity in selection of inspection procedures and allows for the most efficient utilization of manpower.

PBIS provides three important functions for inspectors: risk management, automated support systems and scheduling of inspector's tasks. The computer software program is also an excellent tool in early detection of any detrimental trends before they become potential health protection problems.

During the fiscal year, inspection personnel performed 12,296 inspection tasks scheduled by the PBIS system, based on its analysis of entered data. In addition, inspectors performed 7,905 unscheduled tasks resulting from their on-site observations.

Inspectors and veterinarians examined 4,644 animals before slaughter (antemortem) and afterward (postmortem). Immediately prior to slaughter, all animals received an abbreviated veterinary clinical examination, both in motion and at rest. Postmortem inspections included routine incisions, palpations and observations of the animal carcass, its lymphatic system and detailed inspection of internal organs such as the liver, kidneys, lungs, heart, spleen and intestines.

Animals that showed clinical signs of diseases transmissible to humans or of economic importance to livestock – as well as those showing lesions on postmortem inspections – were retained for detailed veterinary inspection and final disposition. Forty carcasses and a total of 29,083 pounds of parts were condemned at postmortem inspection.

Besides examining animals and carcasses, inspectors and

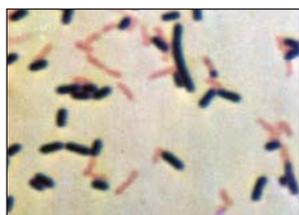
veterinarians verified that each carcass was properly dressed and that all procedures were conducted in a sanitary manner. Particular attention was paid to the humane approach to slaughter operations.

During Fiscal Year 2007, MPID inspected about 3.4 million pounds of processed meat and poultry products and conducted 647 tests of meat and poultry samples to ensure the products complied with national quality standards. Only one test revealed actionable findings, a rate of 0.15 percent

The implementation of advanced food safety measures requires verification by sampling and testing raw meat products for the presence of *Salmonella*. The sampling and testing by a government laboratory are required to verify the plant's performance in pathogen reduction and serves as a preventive tool in assuring food safety. In FY 2007, 389 samples were tested for the presence of *Salmonella* and no results were actionable.

The Division also continued the microbial monitoring program for the presence of *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat meat and poultry products. The Division's policy is zero tolerance for the pathogens. Division staff participated in national programs such as antibiotic/bacterial inhibitor residue program, and sampling of raw ground beef for *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) O157:H7.

In light of numerous national recalls, MPID has placed an increased emphasis on food safety aspects of its inspections – such as testing for *E. coli*, *listeria* and *salmonella* – while slightly reducing consumer protection functions such as fat-content testing.



Inspectors monitored testing of animal carcasses for *Escherichia coli* (biotype I) to verify the plant's process control. Each commercial slaughter establishment is required to collect samples using the sponging method. At least one sample per week is required, starting in June every year and continuing sampling until June the next year, or until 13 consecutive tests are acceptable. In the last fiscal year, *E. coli* testing of carcasses supported that slaughter and dressing procedures were being conducted in a hygienic manner, and the process-control measures applied by plants were adequate.

At all plants, all incoming raw materials, non-meat ingredients and processing technologies – including such complex and high-risk operations as cooking, curing or smoking – were under inspector's control. Operational deviations were recorded on non-compliance reports, and in cases of serious non-compliance, slaughter and/or processing operations were temporarily suspended pending required corrective actions.

In addition to providing daily and continuous inspection in all commercial establishments, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division inspected

25 custom plants on a risk-assessment basis. Farmer's animals are exempt from mandatory antemortem examinations and postmortem in-

spections; but the facilities, equipment, sanitation, water supply, sewage system, rodent control, etc., at all custom plants were subject to review. A total of 150 documented inspections were conducted in licensed custom establishments.

As of the last day of Fiscal Year 2007, the Division licensed 161 meat and poultry distributors. These facilities were subject to pre-licensing review to ensure that technical requirements for such distributors were met. The licensed distributors were not allowed to conduct processing in any form. After licensing, they were subject to scheduled compliance reviews conducted on average every six months. Any significant deficiency triggered more frequent compliance reviews.

Inspection procedures for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) implemented last fiscal year were continued, as were measures to enhance security against potential terrorist attacks. Due to the potential for transmission of the BSE infective agent to humans, some cattle parts from cattle 30 months of age are considered Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) and must be removed from the cattle carcasses. The Division provided regulated establishments with instructions on compliance with the new provisions, and guidelines on available options on saving some valuable meat cuts (e.g., T-bone).

The possibility of a terrorist attack on livestock and the food supply forced the implementation of special security measures at regulated establishments. The Division's inspection personnel are trained to recognize fast-spreading, highly infectious animal diseases that might be used by agro-terrorists in attacks against livestock. They also are on guard against substances that could be used to intentionally contaminate meat products, such as toxic chemicals, heavy metals, botulinum toxin, staphylococcal enterotoxin, pathogenic bacteria such as *Bacillus anthracis* that causes deadly anthrax in humans and animals, *Shigella*, *Salmonella* or some hemorrhagic strains of *E. coli*. Such substances could easily result in massive food-borne disease outbreaks, immense economic losses, and lost confidence in the safety of our meat and poultry supply.

PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION



West Virginia's fields and forests are critical economic resources for the state. Our fields provide the crops that feed the livestock, along with the produce that supplies our many farmers' markets. Our forests provide a renewable source of timber, as well as a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Many people don't realize is that the plant life in our state faces a continuing onslaught of diseases and pests. Plant Industries Division maintains the largest collection of insect specimens in the state and employs the latest technology to catalog, track and control the organisms that plague our plant life.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



Gypsy Moth



Emerald Ash Borer

One of the state's leading plant pests the Gypsy moth, recorded a banner year, and a new pest, Emerald Ash Borer, suspected in 2006, was confirmed in the state in 2007.

Gypsy moths defoliated 77,904 acres of state, federal and private forestland, according to surveys made by Plant Industries Division. The total marked a significant increase of the 17,272 acres defoliated in 2006. Dry conditions in May 2006 and 2007 likely were not conducive to the development of a fungus that had helped to hold down gypsy moth populations in 2003 and 2004.

Although the level of defoliation may fluctuate again in the future, the general range of the gypsy moth continues to expand. Monroe County landowners were made eligible to participate in the WVDA Cooperative State-County Landowner (CSCL) Gypsy Moth Suppression Program during the past fiscal year. Also, federal funding for the CSCL Program remained in doubt late in 2007, placing control programs in financial jeopardy.



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The presence of the emerald ash borer (EAB) - suspected to be in West Virginia because of its presence in neighboring states – was confirmed in West Virginia in late-October 2007 [FY2008]. Although the state's forests do not contain a large number of ash trees, EAB is expected to have a devastating effect on existing ash trees. Plans on how to deal with EAB in West Virginia are ongoing.

Left: A tree, stripped of its bark, shows the larval galleries of an ash tree infested with the Emerald Ash Borer.



Plant Industries Division is divided into two units Agricultural Pest Survey Programs and Forest Health Protection Programs. During FY 2007, the Division operated programs under the authority of the West Virginia Plant Pest Act and the West Virginia Noxious Weed Act, plus a number of cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and USDA, Forest Service (USDA-FS).

During the past fiscal year, new rules passed by the West Virginia Legislature added a huge number of plants to the state's noxious weed list and raised registration fees for the state's plant nurseries and nursery dealers, the first time since fees were last raised in 1986.

AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY PROGRAMS

The Black Fly Control Program has the responsibility of significantly reducing the black fly population in southeastern West Virginia without adversely affecting non-target aquatic organisms within the area of treatment. Suppression activities target problem areas of the New, Bluestone and Greenbrier Rivers.

Accomplishments:

- Supervised 25 black fly treatments.
- Conducted 22 aquatic invertebrate monitoring trips.
- Investigated black fly and/or mosquito complaints in Logan County.
- Mapped hazards (wires) and riffles for the Guyandotte River in Mingo & Logan Counties.

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program conducts surveys for insects, plant pathogens and injurious weeds in field crops for the purpose of detecting any newly introduced foreign plant pests and to monitor the presence and severity of native agricultural pests.

CAPS Program efforts are directed at improving methods for the detection and measurement of plant pests, conducting surveys in support of export certification requirements and entering pest data from this and other Division programs into the National Agricultural Pest Information System's (NAPIS) computer database. Reports of pest populations are made to local, state and federal cooperators. In addition to conducting regular native pest surveys for agricultural plant pests, the program cooperates in multi-state regional pest surveys.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted surveys for giant hogweed, Cogon grass, British yellowhead, horse thistle, leek moth, soybean rust, Karnal bunt, brown rot of potato, and potato cyst nematode.
- Conducted surveys with USDA-APHIS-PPQ at 213 nurseries and nursery dealers, 187 campgrounds and 33 sawmills/log yards for EAB.
- Performed field inspections for the national seed potato certification program.

The Pest Identification Laboratory (PIL) is a cooperative effort of the entomology and plant pathology staff. It provides for identification of insects, plant diseases, weeds and other pests; disseminates information and/or control recommendations on the problems identified; investigates problems considered significant from a biological, regulatory or impact standpoint; and maintains permanent reference collections and record systems of insects, plant diseases and weeds.



Accomplishments:

- Screened approximately 970 insect samples from the EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) USDA-APHIS-PPQ/USFS/WVDA cooperative surveys targeting 13 species of exotic bark beetles along with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ exotic insect surveys for the pine shoot beetle, Asian longhorned beetle, EAB, Khapra beetle, and Sirex woodwasp. Screened EDRR surveys for 12 common, non-exotic species of bark beetles to accumulate distributional data. Identified pine shoot beetle from Berkeley and Lewis Counties making a total of 27 infested counties in West Virginia.
- Entered approximately 500 determined specimens into the insect museum's computerized data base, making a total of 128,989 specimen records as of the end of June.
- Prepared approximately 800 insect specimens for addition into the Reference Insect Collection.
- Sorted and added approximately 1,200 prepared undetermined specimens into the Reference Insect Collection.
- Conducted specimen determinations upon request of the family Tingidae for the Florida Department of Agriculture, Texas A&M, University of Connecticut and Brigham Young University.
- Handled 1,180 pest calls, 511 specimens, 115 literature requests, 22 indoor/outdoor classes, nine laboratory tours, 17 adult educational programs, and provided six media interviews on various pest-related problems.

The Plant Pest Regulatory Program protects the state's agricultural interests from native plant pests that are capable of being distributed on plant material produced within the state and from foreign plant pests that may be introduced either accidentally on plant material from out-of-state sources or intentionally for research or other purposes. This is accomplished through the use of surveys, inspections, quarantines, plant pest orders, plant pest permits, memorandums of understanding, and compliance agreements.

The Program's staff annually inspects all nurseries and, when



possible, nursery stock available for distribution at nursery dealerships; registers all in-state nurseries and nursery dealers; and enforces all in-state plant quarantines.

The Program is also responsible for seeing that plant products leaving the

state comply with all regulations of the receiving state.

The Program serves the consumer by preventing the marketing of disease- or insect-infested nursery stock and serves other horticultural interests of the state by helping to prevent or retard the dissemination of foreign plant pests.

Accomplishments:

- Registered 133 nurseries and 484 nursery dealerships; conducted 165 nursery and 62 nursery dealership inspections, resulting in the stop-sale of approximately 128 individual pieces of nursery stock because of injurious plant pests.
- Conducted surveys under a cooperative agreement with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ that allowed 593 lumber, 73 log and 3 commercial plant shipments to be certified for export from the U.S.
- Issued 88 phytosanitary certificates for interstate plant shipments.
- Visited 236 sites for the purpose of investigating the movement of articles capable of transporting gypsy moth life stages into uninfested areas under the USDA-APHIS-PPQ funded Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Regulatory (STSR) Program.
- Conducted 13 inspections at vehicle weigh stations along interstate highways for the purpose of enforcing state and federal gypsy moth quarantines.
- Set gypsy moth traps at 29 log yards, sawmills, campgrounds, natural gas facilities, nurseries and Christmas tree farms operating under state gypsy moth quarantine compliance agreements with the WVDA to monitor gypsy moth activity.



FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Forest Insect Survey and Detection Program

- Conducted hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) surveys detecting HWA in three new counties: Logan, Marion and Roane.
- As part of a bio-control effort directed at HWA, the predatory beetles, *Scymnus sinuanodulus* was released at Calvin Price State Forest and *Laricobius nigrinus* released at Carnifex Ferry State Park.
- Conducted an EAB visual survey at 116 sites in 33 counties and established 257 EAB trap trees in 29 counties, along major highway corridors entering the state from Ohio and western Pennsylvania, as well as campgrounds and parks that were considered high risk for introduction.
- Detected EAB larvae in a trap tree established at a campground in Fayette County near Oak Hill. This was the first detection of EAB in West Virginia.
- Conducted a survey for siricid woodwasps in 19 counties. Sent samples to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for processing.

Forest Disease Survey and Detection Program

- The forest pathologist and laboratory technician received certification through USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST to perform USDA-APHIS-PPQ validated diagnostic tests for *Phytophthora ramorum*.
- Participated in the 2007 Sudden Oak Death National Survey with the USDA-FS and the USDA-APHIS-PPQ by surveying four streams in Raleigh, Nicholas, Kanawha and Wayne Counties using *Rhododendron* leaves as bait. All the samples were negative for *Phytophthora ramorum*, but a number of other *Phytophthora* species were detected.
- Conducted a beech bark scale/disease resistance survey to locate sites with surviving apparently disease-resistant trees.
- Conducted an ash yellows survey throughout the state, adding six new counties in which ash yellows has been detected. To date, ash yellows has been detected in 22 of 55 counties.

Gypsy Moth Program

The Gypsy Moth Program is, by far, the largest single forest health protection program. It is divided into the Gypsy Moth Cooperative Suppression (GMCS) and Slow the Spread (STS) Programs, both of which are carried out in cooperation with the USDA-Forest Service (USDA-FS). Under the GMCS Program umbrella with the USDA-FS, WVDA conducts the Cooperative State-County-Landowner (CSCL) Program in the generally infested area of the state.



Gypsy Moth Egg Masses. The WVDA treated 11,156 acres under the CSCL Program. Of that total, 9,212 acres were treated with Dimilin while 1,944 acres were treated with the bacterial insecticide Btk for the purpose of controlling gypsy moth.

The STS Program operates in the transition zone between the leading edge of the main infestation and the uninfested zone where adult males are only occasionally found. The objectives of the Gypsy Moth Program are to minimize defoliation and tree mortality in the generally infested area and to retard the spread of the moth into uninfested areas of the state.

A primary component of the Gypsy Moth Program, particularly the STS component, is geographic information systems (GIS) support. The purpose of the GIS section is to provide computer systems operation and data management support and produce maps for male gypsy moth detection surveys, gypsy moth and other forest defoliator surveys and forest pest suppression operations.

GMCS Accomplishments:

- GMCS aerial observers flew approximately 4.75 million acres surveying for gypsy moth defoliation on state and private lands in West Virginia. WVDA Staff mapped 77,910 acres of defoliation within the state.
- GMCS field crews completed 3,249 survey plots and surveyed a total of more than 324,974 acres during the fall of 2006 to determine what areas were at risk for gypsy moth defoliation in the spring of 2007.
- Treated 11,156 acres under the CSCL Program. Of that total, 9,212 acres were treated with Dimilin while 1,944 acres were treated with the bacterial insecticide Btk for the purpose of controlling gypsy moth.
- Hosted the 2007 National Gypsy Moth Review at the National Conservation Training Center at Shepherdstown.
- The gypsy moth program manager was selected to serve another term on the National Gypsy Moth Management Board and continued as Chairman of the National Cooperative Forest Health Protection Aerial Application Safety Council.

STS Accomplishments:

- Trapped 69,574 male gypsy moths. This compares to 84,408 male gypsy moths in 2006.
- Proposed 5,593 traps across West Virginia for 2007 and set 5,578 traps.

GIS Accomplishments:

- Provided computer systems operation and data management support, as well as map production for male gypsy moth detection surveys, gypsy moth and other forest defoliator surveys and forest pest suppression operations.
- Developed a method for providing aerial pilots detailed terrain information, within treatment blocks in order to improve safety.
- Continued upgrading regional supervisors with ArcView 9.1.

REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION



The mission of the Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division (READ) is to protect the health, property and environment of the citizens of West Virginia by providing uniform and equitable inspection, sampling and investigative services and analytical analysis to industries and the farm community.



READ consists of six sections: Food and Agricultural Materials, Guthrie Laboratory Services, Compliance, Product Registration, Pesticide Regulatory Programs and the Moorefield Laboratory.

READ functions as a consumer-protection/consumer-service organization by enforcing appropriate agricultural laws and rules to protect the public food supply. The Division inspects, investigates, samples and analyzes agricultural products, such as feed, seed, fertilizer, lime, pesticide as well as dairy and egg products.

Regulatory personnel review sampling results for compliance with applicable standards and violators are fined or ordered to stop sales. Both products and distributors are required to be registered before they can operate or be sold in West Virginia.

READ also regulates licensing of commercial and private pesticide applicators, implementation of integrated pest managements rules in schools and day care centers, the sale and use of pesticides and works to protect groundwater from pesticide contamination.

The Moorefield Water Quality Laboratory is designed to monitor water quality for both the citizens of West Virginia and special interest groups. The Environmental Programs Section staff members are also involved in several environmental programs and initiatives which are designed to promote agriculture while protecting its best interests.

FOOD PRODUCTS

The inspection fees assessed on 673,516 cases of eggs sold in West Virginia resulted in revenue of \$53,917. Plans to continue developing a computer program utilizing our current database will help eliminate paperwork involved with this program area. The Division plans to have a paperless system in place by 2009. READ is exploring the possibility of acquiring an ice cream machine for training new employees, refresher courses for existing employees, and for teaching new techniques.



During FY '07, the Division worked with the state's livestock markets and auctioneers selling eggs that were not refrigerated, and will continue to work with these groups to ensure proper refrigeration and labeling issues.

- Collected 3,071 product samples during 670 facility inspections
- Issued 665 Frozen Dairy Dessert Permits.
- Assisted 24 manufacturers with proper cleaning and sanitizing (set-ups) procedures.
- Issued 25 shut-down orders and four summary suspensions under the Frozen Dessert and Imitation Frozen Dessert Program.
- Canded 2,360 lots of eggs at 509 retail or wholesale outlets to assure quality and safety to the consumer.
- Issued embargoes to 26 firms for product that failed to meet USDA standards.
- Licensed 173 egg distributors in FY 2007.

AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS

Early in FY 2006, staff members assessed the analytical capabilities of the WVDA with respect to emergency response preparedness, prompting the expansion of current methodologies and the acquisition of new analytical equipment fundamental to the WVDA's laboratory preparedness. Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness grants provided funding for the new equipment.

The Microbiology Laboratory and the Division's microbiologists joined the USDA/FDA collaborative Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) in September 2005. FERN employs the Electronic Laboratory Exchange Network (eLEXNET) for data exchange activities. eLEXNET is a secure internet-based system for communications and submission of analytical results from routine regulatory samples as well as FERN surveillance sampling programs. Staff participated in monthly conference calls to keep abreast of current activities.

Regulatory field staff submitted five cheese samples from an in-state manufacturer for detection of *Salmonella*, *Listeria species*, *E. coli* and coliform bacteria. These samples yielded positive results for coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, and *Listeria species*. The manufacturer collaborated with regulatory field staff to remediate the production process in accordance with acceptable sanitary standards.

During FY '07 Dairy Lab Staff:

Performed tests on 3,185 official samples and 503 service samples.

Laboratory staff participated in the Summer Lunch Program - 152 lunches and 100 milk samples were collected from different sites in West Virginia and were analyzed for coliform, standard plate count, salmonella and butterfat.

Tested 79 dairy samples for butterfat, submitted by The Bureau of Public Health, as arranged by Memorandum of Understanding.

Seed Lab Staff:

Performed tests on 419 official samples and 32 service samples.

Participated in the annual USDA Trueness-to-Variety (TTV) Program by sending USDA selected samples collected by the READ Inspection Staff for field trial grow-outs for variety confirmation.

Analyzed 37 official animal health/human health related samples including two in conjunction with the WV Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement and 33 in conjunction with the Agricultural Materials Laboratory. The analysis of these samples resulted in 65 individual tests being run.

THE PESTICIDE RESIDUE LABORATORY

The laboratory analyzes environmental samples for investigations resulting from applications of pesticides and herbicides. The staff also analyzes food products for pesticide residues to ensure that the consumer is not exposed to harmful levels of these toxic materials. During FY 2007, 620 regulatory, environmental, food and service samples were analyzed.

Product Registration

This program utilizes its ever-expanding database to maintain pertinent information on companies selling, or attempting to sell, regulated products in the state. The program establishes a history for each product and company and expedites the availability of that information.

With Homeland Security Funding, the Division's database was updated to include the tracking of fertilizer materials that may be used to manufacture explosives and the companies that possess them.

The Division expects to increase its registration of feed and fertilizer products by placing an emphasis on animal hospitals and pet boarding houses for additional registrations and sampling. In FY 2007 staff will use a digital camera and notebook computer to record products in the field and upload the photographs to the office to eliminate additional paperwork and allow for more accurate registration of state feed, fertilizer, and pesticide products.

The Division also plans to utilize a computer program that will allow field staff to determine state product registration by using the product UPC label.

Pesticide Regulatory Programs

This program includes agricultural health and safety, certification and training, compliance assistance, compliance management/enforcements, environmental programs, pesticide registration and agricultural worker protection. This program received EPA approval for emergency exemption for the use of a variety of chemicals on soybeans to control soybean rust. Legislative rules to require continuing education training for registered technicians of licensed and regulated pesticide business became effective July 1, 2006.

The Agricultural Health and Safety Program

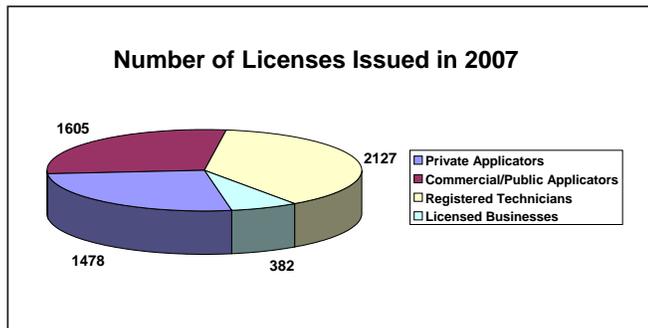
This program is a collaboration of agricultural and medical professionals involved with health and safety issues in modern agriculture. These issues include those involving farm families and environments, workers in agriculture-associated industries, and consumers of agricultural products. The underlying purpose of the program is to reduce or eliminate chronic and acute illnesses and injuries associated with agricultural commodities and products. The program's work is carried out in conjunction with the West Virginia Agromedicine Program.

The Certification and Training Program

This program provides support to public and industry groups and to the WVU Cooperative Extension Service concerning pesticide applicator training and recertification, including evaluation of existing programs and development of new programs where needed.

Many certified applicators and pesticide application businesses have come to depend on the WVDA as the primary source of information and assistance concerning the continuing education credits required for maintenance of their license.

The importance of this aspect of the program will increase in 2007 and beyond with the amendment of the Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules to include a continuing education requirement for registered technicians.



- Approved certification licenses for 1,478 private applicators, 1,605 commercial and certified public applicators, 2,127 registered technicians, 382 businesses, 11 consultants, and 49 dealers.
- Administered 625 examinations to commercial and certified public applicators, with a passing rate of 75 percent.
- Processed 122 private applicator examinations.
- Administered 56 business examinations.
- Approved 289 training programs for recertification credit.
- Approved 21 registered technician training programs, which gives a total of 318 programs that have been approved for West Virginia licensed and regulated pesticide application businesses.

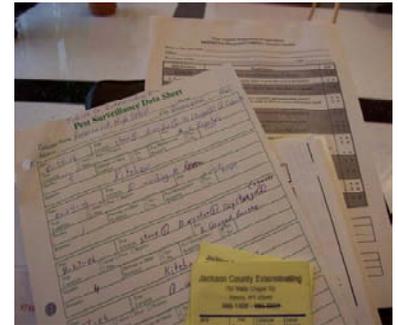
The Compliance Assistance Program

This program works to help schools and day care centers to comply with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Rules. Regular visits are made to schools and day care centers statewide. Feedback is provided to principals, directors and their pest control contractors to address shortcomings noted during site visits. Training in IPM methods and principles is provided to licensed pesticide application businesses to assist them in implementing successful IPM programs.

The Division produced and filmed an IPM Compliance Video. Copies were mailed to pest control companies providing service to schools and day cares. A copy was also sent to the University

of Florida for posting on the National School IPM website.

The ability of the Compliance Assistance Program to provide free, on-site pre-certification training to employees of such businesses is an extremely valuable service of the WVDA. Regulated businesses recently attending WVDA's training sessions included entities such as municipal and county governments, county boards of education and public service districts.



Forms required for school IPM compliance, from the IPM Compliance Video

- Reviewed and acknowledged 144 integrated pest management (IPM) plans submitted by day care centers and IPM plans from public and private schools.
- Responded to 124 telephone inquiries regarding IPM in schools and day care centers.
- Mailed out 82 IPM information packets to new day care centers and private schools.
- Made 58 compliance assistance visits to schools, day care centers, and regulated pesticide application businesses.
- Provided initial pesticide applicator certification training sessions in various locations in West Virginia for employees of licensed and regulated pesticide application businesses. In all, 21 sessions were provided for a total of 266 participants.

The Compliance Management/Enforcement Program

This program provides assistance to individuals and businesses in complying with the requirements of state and federal pesticide laws, and ensures compliance with those laws and regulations through enforcement action when necessary.

- **Performed 374 pesticide inspections and collected 247 support samples (see photo at right).**
- Conducted 67 enforcement actions (13 civil penalties, 17 warning letters and 32 advisory letters).
- Sent cease and desist letters to three companies for not having a qualified person for the businesses, and two companies for not having a proper business license.



Environmental Programs

These programs develop and implement activities to prevent, minimize and monitor the effects of pesticides on environmentally

sensitive areas and resources. Groundwater reserves and endangered species are the primary areas of concern, and have been addressed through EPA grant programs and state legislation. Staff is responsible for the development and implementation of waste pesticide collection and disposal programs and cooperates with allied state and federal regulatory agencies in the promotion and operation of environmental programs.

The program collected approximately 5,500 pesticide containers for recycling and three additional collection sites were added to the program. The additional sites in Greenbrier, Kanawha and Lewis counties were established to facilitate increased participation by the ornamental and turf industries.

The Pesticide Product Registration

Staff registers all pesticide products offered for sale or transported through the state. Products are required to be registered with the payment of a registration fee and the submission of a product label and material safety data sheet. Routine marketplace inspections are conducted by the Enforcement Section to review retail products to ensure registration and labeling is consistent with state and federal regulations. In the past fiscal year, the Division processed more than 9,000 products for registration and use.

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Program

This program works with the WVU-Cooperative Extension Service and EPA Region III to implement the WPS through various outreach efforts.

WVDA has implemented a "Train-the-Trainer" program, and works with all certified WPS trainers in the education of agricultural pesticide workers and handlers.

- Performed 374 pesticide inspections and collected 247 support samples.
- Conducted 67 enforcement actions (13 civil penalties, 17 warning letters and 32 advisory letters).
- Sent cease and desist letters to three companies for not having a qualified person for the businesses, and two companies for not having a proper business license.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS SECTION

This section, located at the Moorefield Regional Agricultural Complex, is responsible for monitoring surface water, and testing nutrients in animal manures and compost. This section monitors streams that the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has listed on the 303(d) list. The Section continues to monitor the North Fork, South Fork, the upper and lower reaches of the South Branch of the Potomac River, Patterson Creek and Lost River. Monitoring programs are also ongoing on Sleepy Creek and Opequon Creek which are located in Morgan and Berkeley Counties.

Other monitoring efforts include working with the WVDEP and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to collect samples for West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Non-Tidal Water Quality Monitoring Network. More than 2,760 water quality samples were collected and analyzed this year, and 112 samples were tested by the Nutrient Management Laboratory.

Participation in mutual environmental projects with other state agencies, national programs and producer associations results in the WVDA maintaining an innovative role in agricultural conservation.

Chesapeake Bay Program

The Environmental Programs Section staff continued an active role in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. Staff has been involved in the West Virginia Tributary Strategy Implementation Committee,



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

which began its work in April 2003. The group is charged with implementing a tributary strategy to reduce nutrients and sediments nutrient to levels set forth by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The West Virginia Tributary Strategy includes an "input deck," which is a list of various Best Management Practices (BMPs) that, once put in place, will meet the capacity load allocations for the state. The proposed cost for the implementation of these efforts is \$873,546,759 in West Virginia. Stakeholders are now involved in aggressive implementation to meet the goals set forth in the document. Part of this effort includes an educational campaign to encourage participation in cost-share programs and BMP implementation projects that affect West Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Environmental Programs Section has designated a portion of the funds from the 2007 Chesapeake Bay Grant toward cost-sharing for installation of BMP projects. This will be carried out in a cooperative effort with the West Virginia Conservation Agency and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services. The first of these projects will be installed on Mill Creek in Grant County.

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)

The Ohio River Sub Basin Steering Committee (ORSBSC), led by ORSANCO, is utilizing a whole watershed approach to accomplish the goals of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Initiative. The ORSBSC began its work in October 2004 to develop an Ohio River Sub Basin Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Most recently, however, the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Initiative efforts have been focused on a reassessment that is evaluating the causes of Gulf Hypoxia and recommending whether the most recent body of scientific evidence supports or suggests revisions to the assessment that formed the basis of the 2001 Action Plan. Environmental Programs Section staff members participated this year in the Ohio River Sub Basin Steering Committee meetings to help the process continue to move forward in a positive direction.

Water Quality Analysis

The Environmental Programs Section monitors the following streams: South Branch of the Potomac, the North and South Forks of the South Branch, Patterson Creek, and Lost River. In the upper Eastern Panhandle, Sleepy Creek and Opequon Creek are monitored monthly. Recently, laboratory personnel expanded sample analysis to include the following parameters: total nitrogen – which includes nitrite, nitrate, ammonia – and TKN, total and reactive phosphorus, TSS, turbidity and dissolved aluminum, in addition to continuing to analyze samples for Nitrate, Ammonia, and Total P.

Stream Flow is also an important aspect of the monitoring program. Discharge is calculated monthly on both Patterson Creek and Lost River at established sites where a stream flow gauge is in place. For the South Branch, stream flow information is accessed via the USGS website from real time gauges that are installed on the South Branch. Recently a stream flow gauge was placed on Sleepy Creek to gather discharge data.

Stream discharge measurements are to continue at the established flow gauge site on Lost River and a new flow measuring site has been established on the upper Patterson Creek watershed. This data is used to project stream discharges during sample collections. Additional flow gauge sites may be established in the future.

During the past fiscal year, there were 2,750 water samples collected and analyzed, which yielded 33,626 determinations.

Nutrient Management Laboratory

The nutrient management laboratory is designed to produce complete analysis on litter, manure and compost samples as a free service to the farmers and poultry producers of West Virginia. The program works in cooperation with producers, poultry companies and various state and federal agencies. Based on analysis from the laboratory, the aforementioned partners work to comply with environmental regulations set forth for the land application of nutrients.

Fiscal year 2007 produced a complete analysis of 112 samples. Analyses included 1,897 determinations for aluminum, iron, potassium, TKN, ammonium, phosphorus, magnesium, calcium, copper, pH, and sulfate.

Atrazine Monitoring Project

In response to a query made by the WVDEP, the Environmental Programs Section undertook a year-long water sampling program

to ascertain the presence and concentrations of atrazine, an herbicide used with corn, in areas where intersex fish have been reported.

It is beyond the scope of the Environmental Programs Section and the WVDEP to draw a direct cause and effect relationship between the occurrence of atrazine and the abnormal condition of the subject fish population. Regardless, preliminary results indicate that the presence of atrazine in the South Branch is virtually nonexistent.

Intersex fish are not unique to West Virginia or to the United States. A large number of environmental pollutants have been studied and documented as to their ability to mimic hormones. The atrazine sampling project began in January 2006 and ran through December 2006.

South Branch Watershed Awareness Day

The WVDA hosted the second annual “South Branch Watershed Awareness Day” on June 2, 2007. This event was open

to the public and to the WVDA's sister agencies, both federal and state. Participants on the trip learned about the importance of the South Branch of the Potomac River as a water resource to West Virginia and its downstream neighbors. Lunchtime speakers gave talks on Chesapeake Bay activities, bald eagles, and fish kill/fish intersex phenomena.

Co-sponsors included the Chesapeake Bay Program, the West Virginia Conservation Agency, Potomac Valley Conservation District, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection, South Branch Watershed Association of Hampshire County, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cacapon Institute, Baker Run Conservation Society, the Conservation Fund Fresh Water Institute, Main Street Grille and the Trough General Store. Plans are being made to hold the event every year in a different section of the South Branch. Bacterial Source Tracking Program

In June 2006 WVDA entered into an agreement with USGS (United States Geological Survey) to selectively compare three different applications of PCR technology for bacterial source tracking. The overall purpose is to be able to produce similar, or identical, results using various PCR methodologies in different locations. PCR is different than older traditional technologies that look at the entire DNA profile. PCR allows the researcher to target for a specific sequence within the profile. These individual targets or markers can be developed for various species of animals or for humans. The overall goal of the project is to provide markers for humans, cattle, poultry, and wildlife.



Potomac Headwaters Water Quality Report

The Environmental Programs Section recently completed a report detailing the water quality program's findings for nutrient and bacteria concentrations in samples collected between July 1998 and June 2004. During this period, over 13,000 samples were collected at 100 sites throughout this region. Results from 12,778 samples from 83 of those sites are discussed in the report.

All of the sampling sites were in basins that were affected by human influences and, therefore, water quality in all sites show the signature of human uses of the land. In order to eliminate sampling bias, all samples were collected based on a preset schedule, and were collected regardless of weather conditions, including both high and low flows, and during periods of low, normal, and high precipitation.

Efforts have been made during this year to widely distribute this report. It can be accessed as a hard copy, CD copy, or electronically on the WVDA's web site at www.wvagriculture.org.

Poultry and Environmental Specialist

The Poultry/Environmental Specialist is a major link between the poultry industry and the citizens of West Virginia. Outreach and education to the general public, the poultry growers, the poultry integrators, and government agencies are the primary efforts of this position. This endeavor includes answering questions regarding backyard flocks, commercial poultry, and the impacts of commercial agriculture production on the economy and the environment.

The Poultry/Environmental Specialist is involved in Chesapeake Bay Program efforts, serves as the agency liaison to the West Virginia Poultry Association, and assists state and federal agencies with preparations for possible poultry disease outbreaks and eradication procedures. This staff member has been the lead individual

in the development and adoption of the West Virginia Avian Influenza Protocol.

The Poultry/Environmental Specialist has been active in the past year educating the farming community about the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Permit process, and the



The WVDA's Poultry Specialist (left) helped organize an Avian Influenza tabletop exercise in 2007.

Federal Air Quality Agreement, explaining the effects these laws could have on their operations. Educational efforts have also been the emphasis of displays at the Tri-County Fair, the State Fair, the West Virginia Poultry Convention, and 4-H Camps.

In April 2007, a case of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was discovered in Pendleton County through routine disease surveillance that is performed before any commercial poultry flock is moved to slaughter. The incident came on the heels of an AI tabletop exercise held in March, 2007. The Poultry and Environmental Specialist served on the committee which planned and conducted the exercise.

The Poultry and Environmental Specialist had actively been working on AI preparedness before the incident, and much of the time during and after the event has been spent on revising the West Virginia AI Protocol and biosecurity programs for the WVDA.

WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION AGENCY

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Serving the citizens of West Virginia to the best of our abilities is the driving force behind the success of West Virginia Conservation Districts and the West Virginia Conservation Agency. Whether we are working with farmers on environmentally friendly practices or with watershed groups on water quality improvement projects, we are thinking about how we can improve the life and well-being of the men, women and children living in the state.



Truman R. Wolfe
Executive Director

When the severe rain and flooding hit Logan County in April 2007, we worked with partnering agencies to remove resulting stream blockages in a quick and efficient manner. Even beyond that service, we were able to restore floodplains at five sites, so that there was a greater capacity to hold extra water. Consequently, when heavy rains came again, the floodplain held the extra water and

minimized flooding at the sites. The Logan County Commission and residents were very pleased with the improvement.

Our commitment to excellence in service was instrumental in enhancing the stream program with staff that has the knowledge and expertise to use the modern and proven methods of stream naturalization and floodplain restoration to the human and financial benefit of West Virginia.

Too many of our citizens have been the victims of repeat flooding! They have endured the physical, emotional and financial trauma that accompanies it. Now in some instances with appropriate funding, we have the skills and expertise to decrease the likelihood of that repetitive flooding.

Our safety record for the 170 watershed structures that Conservation Districts and the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) monitor and maintain is excellent. People rely on these structures for flood protection, water supply and recreation. Not only do we have a yearly inspection, we also have a system of quarterly inspections, so that we may quickly identify and correct any problems that may occur.

Emergency action plans are regularly updated and monitoring staff are trained.

We are very excited to see the 170th structure, the Elkwater Dam, getting close to completion. Having begun some 20 years ago as an idea, this impressive structure will not only meet the current water supply needs, but the future needs as the Randolph County area continues to develop and grow. West Virginia has an abundant water supply, but that water supply needs to be managed and cared for by its citizens and government.

We can say with confidence that our watershed operation and maintenance program as well as our stream program are on or above par with the equivalent programs in other states. We have invested heavily in our staff and their training, and are committed to continual improvement and growth.

As many of you may have heard on the radio or read in the newspapers, Conservation District Supervisors will be elected on the regular ballot in November 2008. Formerly, the elections were "shoe box" style elections at local businesses as described in the original Code written in the 1930s.

This important update is our opportunity to educate more people about the important services that Conservation Districts perform each day. We look forward to the infusion of new faces and new energy into our projects!

As the executive director of the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA), I have the greatest respect and appreciation for the men and women who generously offer their time to serve their counties and districts as Supervisors.

They do much more than attend a monthly meeting. Often they work as members of several project committees spending many hours and many miles away from jobs and family. These fine folks receive no salary, just per diem for their expenses. Their only wage is knowing they made a positive difference in their community and in their state.

CONSERVATION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

West Virginia Conservation Districts continue to promote conservation education through a variety of programs and events. Several conservation districts annually sponsor and or organize a number of field days within their geographical area. These field days are attended by students and adults from across the state and work to enlighten citizens about their role in conserving West Virginia's natural resources. Districts also sponsor a variety of programs including conservation poster and photo contests to bring awareness to the conservation ethic.

Along with other partnering organizations, Conservation Districts and the WVCA continue to support and organize the West Virginia Envirothon. This annual event reaches out to high school students across the state in the spirit of competition. The 2007 event was held at Canaan Valley and saw the participation of more than 30 teams from across the state. The top 5 teams received a share of scholarships totaling \$13,000 and the winning team went on to represent the state at the National Canon Envirothon in New York.

The WVCA and the districts continue to work with federal and state agencies as well as citizen organizations in an effort to promote conservation education. Many districts serve as a resource by providing financial support and technical expertise to local citizen groups concerned with erosion control and water quality for their local streams.

FLOOD RESPONSE SUMMARY

In response to the April 2007 severe storms and flooding in southern West Virginia, the affected Conservation Districts and West Virginia Conservation Agency worked with partnering agencies to remove stream blockages and to restore floodplains in areas with repeated flooding.

The purpose of floodplain excavation is to restore the ability of a stream to carry a larger quantity of water while minimizing future flood potential and erosion. Restoration projects have been completed at five Logan County locations: Cherry Tree; Armory Drive at Monaville; Monitor Park behind Cheap Charlies; Yuma Road; and Micco.

Approximately 49,000 cubic yards of material were removed along Island Creek to restore floodplains, or the flat land adjacent to a stream that catches the water when the stream overflows its banks. The result was that the newly reconstructed floodplains can hold nearly 11 million more gallons of flood water.

Also, more than 23,085 cubic yards of flood debris were removed

from streams in Logan, Mingo and Lincoln counties.

The construction costs for the five completed sites of the floodplain restoration project totaled \$222,593. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection contributed \$185,000 cost share from mitigation funds towards restoration work. The WVCA contributed the remaining funds.

"With this program, we - the local and state partnering agencies - have been able to reduce the likelihood of future flood damages and economic losses from flooding in work areas," Russell Campbell, WVCA Division Director said.

Jimmy Gianato, Director of the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said, "The restoration projects are an effective means of protecting West Virginians during severe storms. The projects can reduce water damage to homes, property and life and help West Virginians to feel safe and secure in their own homes." The restoration program has been successful, because of the dedication of the sponsor and partnering agencies. The Logan County Commission sponsored the program.

The other partnering agencies were the Guyan Conservation District, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Department of Transportation, West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The Logan County Commission obtained all land rights necessary to allow access to the floodplain areas. It has committed to providing long term security to prevent future dumping in restored areas.

"Flooding hurts families, businesses and communities. This was our opportunity to be proactive in trying to reduce future losses from flooding," Logan County Commission President Art Kirkendoll said.

"We know from past experience that this type of work is very beneficial. A recent floodplain and stream restoration site at Garretts Fork had a past history of chronic flooding, but the area had no material damages from the April flooding. It worked!"

"The five sites that were worked on in the Island Creek area reinforced our thinking about how effective this type of stream work was. The streams flow better, look so much more beautiful, and allow residents to have more of a secure feeling, because they know that flooding is a lot less likely to happen again."

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways contributed personnel hours and tandem axle dump trucks to haul away materials

removed from the floodplains.

Upon request from the Logan County Commission, restoration work has been planned for two more Logan County watersheds: Cooperas Mine Fork and Mud Fork.



After the flooding in Logan County, the WVCA and Conservation Districts worked with other agencies to remove debris blockages and to restore floodplains to a more natural state that would allow the streams to hold more water.



This truck is spreading agricultural lime on a field.

LIME INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Lime Incentive program has evolved into one of the most requested programs available from West Virginia Conservation Districts. This Legislature funded program has completed its second full year. It allows producers to be reimbursed for a portion of their lime purchase.

Lime application not only provides benefits to producers by enriching the nutrient quality and growth of grasslands, but it also aids in the reduction of soil erosion. \$1.2 Million has been granted into the program with almost \$700,000 paid back to over 800 producers, allowing more than 65,000 tons of lime being applied to 25,000 acres.

More than 300 additional producers have been approved for the program within the Districts and are in the process of applying lime. The reimbursement amount has been averaging slightly less than 50% of the liming cost and program guidelines limit the producer to 50 acres or less per farm. This has, in many cases, encouraged the producer to go ahead and invest more of his or her own money to liming the entire farm which gives us both an economical and environmental benefit.

STREAM ACCESS PERMIT PROGRAM

Water quality is protected and the likelihood of flooding is reduced when people use proper techniques and materials to prevent or decrease erosion along streams as well as to remove debris or deposits in streams on their property. For these reasons, the Landowner Stream Access Permitting Program is very important.

The Permitting Program helps individuals by coordinating stream access permitting activities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and by providing follow-up technical assistance.



This stream project was completed by a private citizen with assistance from the Stream Access Permit Program

The program is designed to help landowners follow an approved stream plan to remove debris and rock or silt deposits from established stream channels. The program also allows landowners to manage stream bank erosion in a way that protects the overall integrity of the stream.

In FY07, Conservation Districts and the Agency processed 560 applications in the Stream Access Permit Program.

WATER QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION

Locally lead conservation has long been the mantra of the Conservation Partnership in West Virginia and partnering with watershed associations throughout the state is providing more opportunities for project identification, planning and implementation.

One example of this is in the Buckhannon River Watershed where the local watershed association has brought every state and federal agency involved with water quality together to address the many water quality issues there.

The Agency's role in the Upper Buckhannon Project brought a 319 Grant cost share grant to agricultural producers for land conservation programs and addressed sedimentation from natural gas extraction activities. Participation in the voluntary program was championed by the local Conservation District and \$112,000 of cost share monies were distributed to farmers in the watershed for various best management practices. Local cost share contributions of \$19,000 went towards stabilizing abandoned gas well roads and pipelines reducing the impacts sediment was causing in the river.

Stream stabilization projects to reduce stream bank erosion and sediment loads were administered by the WVCA Conservation Services with federal 319 Grant cost share dollars on the Little Sandy - \$40,232., Spring Creek - \$20,250, Cabin Creek - \$100,000, Lost River - \$50,000, and War Memorial Park - \$5,000. State funding of over \$152,000 was contributed for similar work completed at Turkey Creek, Little Grave Creek and Reedsville. All of these projects were successful because of support received from various local partners.

The WVCA in partnership with the Conservation District provides technical assistance in the proper installation and maintenance of best management practices (BMPs) to landowners who have questions or concerns about their agricultural operation, as well as support for education and outreach efforts. Educating the agricultural community can bring positive change.

Through educational activities and workshops, landowners are offered education concerning sediment and water quality best management practices to enhance their land as well their surrounding environment.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Conservation Districts and the WVCA remain committed to assisting local county governments with water resource planning. Detailed resource assessments and plans are designed to address the complex and interrelated issues involved with population growth and the need for adequate water supply.

Essential for maintaining citizen health and for improving economic development, these projects create plans specific to the county. They serve as a roadmap to develop clean, safe water supplies, improved fire and water protection as well as water-related recreation. These plans enable the local government to plan for population growth and development in a manner that supports the citizens.

County wide water resource plans have been completed for Berkeley and Morgan Counties. Contract development for Doddridge County is under way, while Barbour, Greenbrier, Hampshire and Jefferson county plans will be addressed next.

WATERSHED STRUCTURES UPDATE

West Virginia relies on watershed structures to help minimize potential flood damage, provide clean water supplies and water recreation opportunities to its citizens. Conservation Districts and the West Virginia Conservation Agency inspect and maintain 170 watershed structures and 23 channels. These structures are inspected and repaired on a regular basis for safety reasons.

The 2007 annual Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Inspections included each of the 170 watershed structures and 23 channels. Upon completion of these inspections, work plans were developed and implemented with Conservation Districts and sponsors to address maintenance issues. Additional inspections of all dams and channels are being performed on a quarterly basis to ensure the safe operation and to identify possible easement violations.

Maintenance contracts for items identified on annual inspections are underway and ongoing in all Conservation Districts and associated watershed project areas. All identified major maintenance needs were completed on these structures by the end of the construction season of 2007.

Emergency Action Plans are being updated and put into place for each structure. A training program for watershed structure monitors has been developed. Monitors are being trained on a one- on-one basis or in

small groups on a project site. This training provides monitors with valuable knowledge to be used during an emergency situation. Training is available to all monitors. Certificates of training and ID cards are being presented to each trainee to insure access to structures during emergency situations.

Construction on the Elkwater Fork Structure in Randolph County is well underway. The estimated completion date is December 2008. The structure is 123 feet high, 700 feet wide, roller compacted concrete (RCC) dam with an integrated spillway system. It has a reservoir size of 54 acres and a water supply pool storage of 1,400 acre feet.



The Elkwater Fork Dam in Randolph County will help provide a safe clean water supply as well as recreational opportunities.

WEST VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE



Under a continuing agreement since 1915, the WVDA and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have operated the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Office. The NASS mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture.



This service collects, summarizes, and distributes agricultural information for the State and is recognized as the official source of agricultural statistics. Under this cooperation, there is no duplication of effort by the State and Federal agencies. Currently, there are similar agreements in 35 states, of which the West Virginia Field Office was one of the first. Funding for the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Office is provided entirely by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service was established as the USDA Division of Statistics in 1863. Since 1866, it has published a continuing series of reports on major crops, livestock and agricultural prices. The ever-increasing need for data in the field of agriculture has caused the program to expand to over 100 farm products. Various reports contain current forecasts of production, annual conditions, and annual disposition of agricultural commodities. Information on the prices of items in production, prices received for output, and amount and type of labor used are also collected and published. Users of these data are farmers, processors, distributors, transportation industries, lending institutions, governments, and individuals. Price fluctuations and potential world-wide shortages have broadened the interest in agricultural data tremendously in the past several years.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farmers and agriculturally-related businesses are the source of practically all information gathered by the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Office. Reporting of these data are voluntary and primarily by three methods: personal interview, telephone interview, and mail surveys. Most interviews are conducted by enumerators employed by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Quarterly Agricultural Surveys are conducted to collect crop and livestock information. These interview surveys combine samples of areas of land and large operators to give estimates based on known probabilities of error. Mail surveys collect information, primarily from farmers, on crop acreage, conditions and yields, as well as livestock inventories, milk and egg production, and prices. Our office maintains a List Sampling Frame of over 22,000 names and addresses of farmers and farm-related businesses to use as the source for our survey work. By Federal law (Title 7, U.S. Code), all answers provided by farmers on their questionnaires remain confidential and are used only to form State and National summaries. The personal information goes no further than the West Virginia Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

DATA PROCESSING

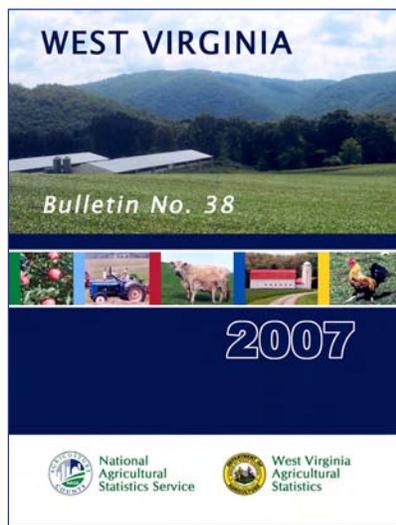
Survey questionnaires arrive daily, and in peak periods by the hundreds. This information must be checked, sorted, classified, summarized and interpreted as accurately and promptly as possible. Through the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) most of the survey data is entered into the computer system at the time of the interview. This saves time in not having to reenter the data, eliminates the use of paper questionnaires, and increases the security of the data. As part of the e-gov initiative, nearly all surveys are available for respondents to complete 'on-line' through the electronic data reporting system. Following data collection, the information is sent by telephone communications to the mainframe for further processing.

STATE PROJECTS

In addition to those reports required by Federal regulations, several projects are conducted at the State's request. These projects include major crop and livestock county estimates, the State Farm Census, Orchard and Vineyard Surveys, and compiling the Annual Bulletin of agricultural statistics.

INFORMATION DESSIMINATION

In addition to the annual statistics bulletin, our office issues regular timely press releases, weekly weather crop reports, and the monthly Mountain State Reporter (a summary of the current month's press releases and previously unreleased data). These releases are available on the Internet by accessing the WV Agricultural Statistics Homepage: www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/West_Virginia/index.asp, and are sent by e-mail to users with Internet Access. The releases are also available free of charge and are mailed to survey respondents, media, libraries, and qualified organizations; and by subscription to other interested groups or individuals. Media interviews and presentations are given to disseminate agricultural information.

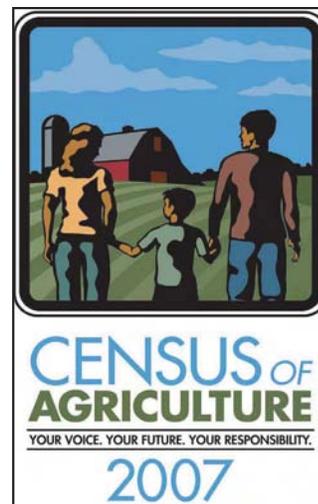


In addition, presentations are made to various agricultural groups to explain our programs and estimates.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The National Agricultural Statistics Service also has the responsibility of conducting the Census of Agriculture, a complete count, taken every five years, of America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census of Agriculture is the most complete agricultural data resource available, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive data on land ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures for every county in every state in the nation.

Response to the Census of Agriculture is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). This same law also guarantees that individual information will be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes. The privacy of individual Census records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.



Census statistics are used by Congress to develop and change farm programs, study historical trends, assess current conditions, and plan for the future. Many National and State programs use census data to design and allocate funding for Extension Service projects, agricultural research, soil conservation programs, and land-grant colleges and universities. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community. In short, people serving farmers and ranchers depend on agricultural census data to make good, solid decisions for the agricultural community.

During early 2008, information will be collected for the 2007 Census. This is our farmers' voice, future and responsibility. By participating in the 2007 Census, producers can help show the nation the value and importance of U.S. Agriculture and how agriculture contributes to America by providing food, fuel and fiber. By responding to the Census, every producer can have a positive impact on the future of their own operation and their entire community. Everyone's response to the Census makes a difference! Detailed Census reports for all counties, states, and the nation will be available in both electronic and print format beginning in February 2009.



West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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