

Tucker County Ag Watch

WVU Extension.....Working for You

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain.”
 ~Dolly Parton

Sign-up is Open for Ag Enhancement Program

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District is pleased to announce that it is once again taking applications for the following Best Management Practices (BMP's):

LIME:
 \$15.00 (flat rate) per ton up to \$2,250

INVASIVE SPECIES:
 Up to \$300 per applicant for chemicals only

FERTILIZER:
 \$40 per acres for 18-46-0
 \$20 per acre for Potassium
 \$20 per acre for Nitrogen
 the lime & fertilizer practices

Livestock Water Development:

Spring Development - 70% Cost Share
 Well Development - 70% (does not include drilling a new well) Cost Share

Pipeline & Trough - 70% Cost Share

Livestock Exclusion & Division Fencing:

\$1.60 per foot (\$4,000 cap per applicant)

Items needed to apply for the program:

Cooperator number - assigned by the district

Copy of farm map defining the area in which you plan to complete the practice(s) you apply for
 Current soil samples
 Completed current W-9

Please contact the TVCD Office at 304-457-3026 or the WVU Extension Office at 304-478-2949 x. 209 for an application.

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Anthracnose in Your Garden

Anthracnose is a common fungus that appears in gardens during wet, cooler weather. It is particularly common in snap beans. To stop the spread of this damaging disease remove or bury any plant debris to avoid harboring fungal inoculum that can cause future infections.

Plant disease-free seed and do not save seed from legumes diagnosed with anthracnose. Rotate areas of the garden where anthracnose has been identified to crops other than legumes, such as corn for two years. Avoid working in the garden when foliage is wet to pre-

vent transport of fungal inoculum to other areas. Currently there are no fungicides approved for treatment of



Baleage Surveys—Please Return

This is a gentle reminder to please return surveys for the baleage study. If you have misplaced your survey and would like to provide data, please let Cathy know, and she will

send you another form.

We will be collecting data and doing on-farm testing throughout the remainder of the season. Again, all samples collected will be analyzed

free of charge if you are a study participant. Baleage must be cured for at least 30 days at the time of sampling.

If you would like a moisture reading at the time of baling please let me know.



Farm to School—Wrapping Up A Successful First Year

Thanks to the grant funding we were awarded through the Northeast SARE program, we were able to offer fresh, locally grown produce to our school children in Tucker County for several months in 2012. If you have been following our newsletter updates, you are aware that we entered 2012 with no history of local farmers selling to the schools. At the conclusion of this school year we have 7 registered

vendors who have provided a wide array of produce to every school in the county.

We have surveyed the students, teachers, and school foods personnel and have learned that appreciation for local foods is strong and growing. Our farmer-vendors also report that they were very pleased with their first year experience and hope to provide even

more items in 2013-2014. We want to extend our thanks to those who participated! The grant funding also enabled the purchasing of large signs to be displayed at each school designating it as a Farm to School Participant.

If you know of a farmer who might be interested in becoming a school vendor, please contact the WVU Extension Office.

Potomac Horse Fever—Confirmed in the Area

Originally described in 1979 as a sporadic disease affecting horses residing in the eastern United States near the Potomac River, the disease has since been identified in various other geographic locations in the United States and Canada. The disease is seasonal, occurring between late spring and early fall in temperate areas, with most cases in July, August, and September at the onset of hot weather. Clinical signs are variable but may include: fever, mild to severe diarrhea, laminitis, mild colic, and decreased abdominal sounds. Uncommonly, pregnant mares infected with *N. risticii* (usually in the middle trimester between 90 and 120 days) can abort due to fetal infection at 7 months of gestation.

If Potomac Horse Fever has been confirmed on a farm or in a particular geographic area, it is likely that additional cases will occur in future years. Foals appear to have a low risk of contracting the disease. Please watch horses carefully for signs of this disease and contact your veterinarian immediately.

Collecting Hay for Analysis

Using laboratory analysis to measure forage quality is an effective way to determine what supplements, if any, are needed to optimize animal performance. However, a laboratory analysis is good only if the sample submitted is representative of the forage the animal will eat. Proper collection and preparation of the sample are important.

When taking samples from hay bales, you need to have the right tools. Purchase or borrow a forage sampler, such as the Penn State Forage Sampler (pictured at right). Forage samplers are a sharpened tube

that is drilled into a hay bale to cut out a small subsample. Compared to the cost of feeding supplements forage samplers are inexpensive and should be part of the livestock producer's management kit.

Divide the hay into lots based on management; such as date of cut, forage maturity, forage species, nitrogen fertilized versus grass-legume, or rain damaged hay. For each hay lot, randomly select 12 to 20 bales. Using the forage sampler take a cored subsample from each bale. When sampling large round bales stored outdoors, take the sample

from below the weather damaged "cap" if the animals will not be forced to eat this material. Combine these 12 to 20 cores in a plastic bag to make the sample to be sent to the lab. Hay samples can be mailed to the laboratory in the plastic bag since they should be adequately dry.

~ Dr. Ed Rayburn, WVU Extension Forage Specialist



Heirloom Apple Project

If you have an old apple tree on your property and would love to have more just like it, the heirloom apple project is for you. Often we hear people say that they have an old tree and have no idea what kind it is, but it has the best apples. When these trees die off, there is usually no way to purchase another like it. WVU

Extension Agent Bill Shockey in Preston County has developed a program in which buds from trees are harvested and sent to a nursery to be grafted onto an existing root stock. The nursery will produce up to 10 replicas of the buds sent to them. They will allow these trees to mature for 2 years, and then send you the

new trees for planting. We will be trained this summer by Bill to collect the buds for shipment to the nursery, so that next year we can offer this valuable service to Tucker County. If you are interested in saving some of your old apple trees, please let us know by calling the WVU Extension Office 304-478-2949.



WVU Extension Service

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Parsons, WV 26287
Phone (304)478-2949 x. 209

Jennifer Poling, Agent
LeAnn George, Program Assistant
Cathy Bonner, Secretary

We are in the process of updating our mailing lists. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please contact us at the WVU Extension Office with your new address. Thank You!

WVU Extension....

Working For You!

Dates to Remember

4-H and FFA Live-
stock Show
August 22nd
(Market), August
23rd (Showmanship)
at 6pm Camp Kidd

Extension Ser-
vice Committee
Meeting Sept.
11th at 1pm in
Extension Office

4-H and FFA Live-
stock Sale
Saturday, August
24th 6pm Camp
Kidd

Tucker County
Farm Bureau An-
nual Dinner
Sept. 21