

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Walt Helmick, Commissioner



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Beef for Father's Day Sampling Event to be held June 1 at Capitol Market

Charleston, W.Va. - Thinking of grilling up a few steaks this Father's Day? Make sure to use West Virginia-raised beef. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is promoting the "Beef for Father's Day" program around the state throughout June. The kick-off is set for Wednesday, June 1, at Capitol Market in Charleston. Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick invites everyone to "come taste the difference!"

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin will join Commissioner Helmick, the West Virginia Beef Industry Council and West Virginia 2016 Beef Queen to sample fresh steak kabobs which market visitors can enjoy, free of charge, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"Beef is big business when it comes to West Virginia agriculture, second only to our commercial poultry industry," stresses Helmick.

West Virginia's farmers raise 138 million pounds of beef each year. That adds up to a \$200-\$225 million industry. That number could be even larger, according to the commissioner, if the meat raised here in West Virginia stayed in-state for processing. Currently most of the state's cattle are sold at livestock auctions and shipped to the Midwest for slaughter.

"Beef is a cornerstone of the state's agricultural economy, and I'm committed to finding ways to keep West Virginia cattle and West Virginia dollars in this state," says Helmick.

Additional "Beef for Father's Day" events will be held during June in Beckley, Clarksburg and Parkersburg.

For more information about "Beef for Father's Day," contact WVDA Communications Officer Buddy Davidson at bdavidson@wvda.us or 304-558-3708.

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