

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Walt Helmick, Commissioner



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WV Beef Sampling Event Set for June 13 at Bicentennial Park in Parkersburg

Charleston, W.Va. – The distinctive summer smell of beef hitting the grill will be wafting around Parkersburg’s Bicentennial Park Monday, June 13, when the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Beef Council team up for a “Beef for Father’s Day” sampling event.

Local WV beef samples will be served from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. for the public to enjoy, free of charge.

“Beef is big business when it comes to West Virginia agriculture, second only to our commercial poultry industry,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Walt 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” program events were held in Charleston and Clarksburg as well as an upcoming one in Beckley.

For more information about “Beef for Father’s Day,” contact WVDA Livestock Marketing Specialist Andy Yost at ayost@wvda.us or the Communications & Marketing Division at 304-558-3708.

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