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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**WVDA AND BOY SCOUTS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO BRING LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD TO THE 2017 NATIONAL JAMBOREE**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) announced a new partnership with the Boy Scouts of America to provide locally sourced food products for the 2017 National Jamboree at the Bechtel Reserve in Fayetteville, WV. Two West Virginia based businesses, Thistledew Farm of Proctor and Family Roots Farms of Wellsburg, will be selling West Virginia Grown products for first time at the July event. West Virginia honey and maple syrup will be available for sale at the Jamboree Outpost, the scout retail store on site.

“This is a prime example of existing business being encouraged to expand to meet new demands. The goal of our Agriculture Business Development Division was to find public-private partnerships to encourage such growth,” stated Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “Working with the Boy Scouts and our West Virginia producers, we will open up huge opportunities for economic development within agriculture.”

The WVDA presented a list of West Virginia products to the Boy Scouts earlier this year. Based on the success of this effort, the Boy Scouts of America could consider sourcing more local food for upcoming events hosted at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. The National Jamboree, which takes place every four years, draws more than 40,000 attendees for the 10-day event. In 2019, the International Jamboree will also take place in the United States for the first time in over 50 years and for the first time ever in West Virginia.

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“Hosting Scouting’s biggest adventure in West Virginia is a great source of pride for us,” said Todd McGregor, Group Director of the Summit Bechtel Reserve. “Extending our support of this great state by sourcing food from local producers is a natural extension of this deep and valued partnership.”

The WVDA will also be one of 19 exhibitors in the West Virginia Tent during the upcoming National Jamboree. The West Virginia tent was set up in 2013 to highlight the best of the Mountain State. The WVDA exhibit will focus on West Virginia products, farming and sustainability.

“We will continue to work with our producers to formulate a plan to meet more needs of the Summit over the next two years,” continued Commissioner Leonhardt. “The Scouts have an amazing commitment to local food and helping West Virginia. This is a win for our state and the New River Gorge region.”

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