

News Release
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP

As the agriculture industry ups the ante when it comes to food safety, so too are producers. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is sponsoring a workshop on "Writing YOUR Food Safety Plan." The event is all about helping growers and producers develop and implement a plan that meets the requirements set by the USDA Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) audit. The workshop will walk participants through the tools and resources needed to accomplish their plan and get their certification.

More and more consumers want to know that the food they're eating is safe and healthy. According to a Cornell University study, 73.3 percent of consumers say they're willing to pay more for fresh fruits and vegetables certified as grown under safe farm practices.

The workshop can help producers reach a wider customer base and open up new agriculture opportunities. The event takes place January 23, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Flatwoods Days Hotel. The cost of the workshop is \$25. It is free to WVDA employees. Lunch is on your own.

Participants are asked to register before January 15 by calling the WVDA Marketing and Development Division at (304) 558-2210 or emailing ctolley@wvda.us

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs, as mandated by state law. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials in West Virginia. For more information, visit www.wvagriculture.org.