

Criteria for West Virginia Grown Food Products

Food products that are accepted by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) must meet the following requirements.

1. Must be of the highest quality.
2. Must be made, processed or produced in West Virginia **OR** have a value-added of 50% or greater.
3. Must be properly labeled and meet “Consumer Packaged Labeling Requirements” provided by the WVDA, WV Division of Labor (Weights and Measures Section) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
4. Product labels must have a Label Inspection Report and be approved by the WVDA and properly applied (permanently affixed) to containers/packaging. All labels for products must be attractive and consistent, and of the proper size for the approved packaging. There is a “Tips for Generating a Successful Label” publication available.
5. Packaging for products must be of the highest quality and appropriate for the product. Tamper-evident sealing is recommended to ensure that products will remain of the highest quality. “Contain Coding” or “Evident Coding” must be shown on the package.
6. Certain food products must be manufactured or processed in an approved kitchen facility. The West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, office of Environmental Services in conjunction with the United States Food and Drug Administration, grants approval for these facilities. In addition, the manufacturing of the product itself may have to go through a process approval. Copies of this approval process will become part of each company’s file at the West Virginia Department of Agriculture’s Communications & Marketing Division.
7. Meat and meat products must be processed and packaged in a facility that is approved and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division of the WVDA. The labels must be approved by the USDA or the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division of the WVDA. Products must have a valid Meat Distribution Permit.
8. Dairy products, eggs, animal feeds, fertilizer, agricultural limes and seeds must meet additional regulation and labeling requirements. The WVDA Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division handles the registration and product label reviews for these specific products.