

WV SMALL FARM ADVOCATE

A PUBLICATION OF THE WV SMALL FARM CENTER, WVU EXTENSION SERVICE, RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ABOUT THE WVSF ADVOCATE

With the formation of the WV Small Farm Center this past fall, we felt the need to rename our newsletter from The Risk Manager to the WV Small Farm Advocate. Appearing in this smaller (and electronic) form, the WV Small Farm Advocate will occasionally appear in the larger popular newspaper tabloid form for handout at various venues. Saving paper and costs, we have also e-mailed this newsletter. We will be sending e-updates and action alerts to constituents who provide us with their e-mail address. Send your e-mail address to Becky.Casteel@mail.wvu.edu

WV Small Farm Center Team:

Tom McConnell,
Director
TRMcConnell@mail.wvu.edu
304-293-6131 x4237

Becky Casteel

Sarah Cross

Jessi James

Susan Sauter

MORE OPPORTUNITY AT WV SMALL FARM CONFERENCE:

BETTER PROCESS CONTROL SCHOOL

Yet another opportunity will be available in conjunction with the WV Small Farm Conference—a Better Process Control School (BPCS) will be conducted by the WV Department of Agriculture Thursday, February 25 and Friday, February 26. Last month, we wrote in The WV Small Farm Advocate of the largely untapped pathway by our state’s small farmers to direct market their own commercially preserved foods. One barrier has been that acidified foods training is required before one can consider taking this step. The good news is that now the training is being offered close to

home and soon.

Instead of having to go to out of state, farmers can attend a BPCS in Morgantown in February. The 25 to 30 individuals expected will begin their instruction 8 AM the morning of the last day of the WV Small Farm Conference at the Ramada Inn and continue for another full day past the end of the conference. Training will be provided in every area associated with the safe way to preserve food including how to document that proper procedures were followed. Class topics include microbiology basics, thermal processing, acidified foods, facility

sanitation, and container closures.

The WV Small Farm Center wants to see more individuals trained to preserve food so they will be able to market their own canned products and is offering a limited number of scholarships for persons to attend this training provided he or she will be able and willing to help similar efforts elsewhere in the state. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page by Feb 15 and we will pass along your name to the WV Dept. of Agriculture.

INFO & REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE ENCLOSED

Conference planning has been in high gear and we apologize for the delays in information. The web site should be live by the time you receive this and we hope the enclosed schedule and registration form will answer many of your questions. We are happy to

say that the Winter Blues Farmers Market kicking off the event Monday, Feb 23, 4-7 pm, looks like it will have many vendors and eager customers. We can't wait to see everyone **Tuesday, Feb. 24 through Thursday, Feb 26**, at the Ramada Inn & Conference

Center in Morgantown. Registrations have been flowing in already. See you soon! Try our Website now: www.wvu.edu/~agexten/sustanag/events/OR google WV Small Farm Conference.

Yes, I am very interested in attending the Better Process Control School to be held Feb 25 & 26. Note: Form must be received by Feb 15, 2009; mail to Tom McConnell, WV Small Farm Center, WVU Extension Service, 2098 Agricultural Sciences Bldg. Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

Name _____ I would like information about a scholarship.____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

