



# Out and About In The Tygarts Valley Conservation District

## We're Going Green!

TVCD now offers an "e-newsletter" for anyone who is interested. If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, our would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit [wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm](http://wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm) or call our district office at 304-457-3026.

## Dates to Remember

- ⇒ July 27th– AgEP cost share sign-ups begin
- ⇒ August 7th– AgEP applications due to TVCD office (4pm)
- ⇒ August 14th-23rd– WV State Fair (Lewisburg)
- ⇒ September 7th - Labor Day (Office closed)
- ⇒ September 8th - Protect Your Groundwater Day

## Cost- Share Requirements

Due to new guidelines set by the WVCA, **all cost-share applicants must submit an aerial map** of their farm with their application. These maps are made available through your local FSA or NRCS office. Additionally, applicants who are seeking lime or fertilizer must also submit recent (within the past 3 years) soil sample results .

## Summer 2015

### District Farmers Recognized

The Conservation Farm of the Year competition showcases the best examples of farms owned and operated by people who are dedicated to conservation. Farms are judged on several topics such as resource management, conservation plan, best management practices, cooperator contribution and involvement in the community.

With the help of the NRCS, three district cooperator/ farms were chosen and asked to participate in the competition. This year's competition featured farmers from Barbour, Randolph, and Upshur counties.

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District held their district farm tour and judging on May 21, 2015. The day long event included a tour of each farm, allowing the farmers to discuss what conservation practices and efforts they've made on their property as well as outline their production.

After tallying the judges scores, the winners were announced as:

- 1st place– Mike & Pam Kwasniewski (Randolph Co.)
- 2nd place– Tim Woody (Upshur Co.)
- 3rd place– Stan White (Barbour Co.)

TVCD congratulates each of these farmers on their accomplishments and continued conservation efforts. The district will be holding a BBQ in their honor, and thanks for their participation and support.

Our district first place winners will go on to compete in area competition, with the farm tour/judging taking place in late July.

If you are a district cooperator and are interested in participating in this competition, please contact Hillary Woofter at the district office.

### Cost-Share Program Signups

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District will be accepting applications for their agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP) beginning Monday, July 27, 2015.

Cost share money is available for the following programs:

- On farm fencing
- Livestock water development
- Heavy use area

- protection
- Pollinator plantings
- Lime
- Pasture fertilization

Applications will be available at the district office and on the district's website at [wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm](http://wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm)

The program sign-up deadline is Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. All applications will be ranked according to new

criteria set by the WVCA and will be approved based on the availability of funds.

For an application or additional information, please contact the district office at 304-457-3026 or via e-mail at [hwoofter@wvca.us](mailto:hwoofter@wvca.us)



## Teaching Our Youth

The 2015 "Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Classroom" event was held on May 4th in Upshur County. This annual event is planned through the Upshur County Extension Office, and other TVCD partners, such as the WV DNR, WV DoF, NRCS, and WV DEP. The event is aimed towards elementary students, and teaches them a variety of topics on the environment, natural resources, and agriculture.

This year's presentations were given at both Union Elementary and Hodgesville Elementary. All school students are encouraged to

attend, and between both schools this year, more than 450 children participated. The Tygarts Valley Conservation District was represented at the event by Upshur County Supervisor Rex Reeder, TVCD

Outreach Coordinator Joyce Frey, and District Manager Hillary Woofter. Joyce gave a presentation on beekeeping and sting safety, while Hillary led a presentation on groundwater pollution and

conservation.

TVCD looks forward to participating in the event next year, and thanks the students, teachers, and conservation partners who participated in the event.



TVCD District Manager Hillary Woofter explains the water cycle to a group of students at Union Elementary in Buckhannon, WV.

## Pollinator Workshop



TVCD held a Pollinator Workshop at the district office on May 21st, that featured a presentation on local pollinators by Dr. Daniel Frank, WVU Entomologist. Attendees were shown how to identify various species of wasps and bees, and what roles they play in the environment. Barbour County Extension Agent, Josh Peplowski, also gave a short presentation that expanded on the roles of local pollinators, and some of their native habitats.



TVCD would like to give special thanks to the Mountaineer 4-H Club for planting pollinator friendly flowers in the flower boxes around the district office complex.



## Food Prep Classes

Did you know that canning recipes published prior to the mid-1990s are no longer considered safe? Much research has been completed to ensure the safety of home canned goods since then – this means “grandma’s recipes” or “the way it’s always been done” may not be safe.

The WVU Barbour and Randolph County Extension Services offer help in answering food preservation questions as well as classes on the subject. If you are interested in learning to preserve your garden’s

bounty (or the bounty of those at farmers markets) or just need a refresher course in how to preserve your foods, the Extension Service can help.

This summer, evening sessions will target water-bath canning and pressure canning. You can register for the following classes by calling the WVU Extension Service in Barbour or Randolph counties.

**Water-Bath and Pressure Canning/Freezing:** Learn the basics of up-to-date food preservation techniques and safe preservation

methods. Participants will can acid products such as jam, salsa, or pickles, low-acid products such as green beans, other vegetables, beans, or meat, and freeze fruits and vegetables. Participants will take home items prepared.

**Dates:** Monday and Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm, Crim Memorial Church, Philippi Monday and Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm, 4-H Camp Pioneer, Beverly

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required on or before July 22<sup>nd</sup> for Philippi classes and July 29<sup>th</sup> for Randolph classes by calling 304-457-3254 or 304-636-2455. Space is limited, call early.

**Cost:** \$10 per person for each two-night class to cover cost of ingredients.

For information on food preservation or to register for food preservation classes call the WVU Barbour or Randolph County Extension Service at 304-457-3254 or 304-636-2455, respectively.

## Upcoming Conference

Mark your calendars for the WVU Extension Service’s 2nd annual Women In Agriculture Conference. Unlike last year, the conference will be held in October at the Canaan Valley Resort. While still early in the planning stages, they hope to offer pre-conference farm tours that Friday, followed by the WV Agri-Women’s Quarterly Meeting. Saturday the 24th will feature an exhibitor fall, keynote speaker presentation, an informative Q&A with WV producers, and several workshops.

Tentative workshop topics include:

- Ag Mechanics 101
- How to Interpret a Soil Test
- Out of Season Breeding
- Website Development
- Managing Liability on the Farm
- Diversifying with Agroforestry, Heirlooms and Specialty Crops
- Multi Species Grazing
- What’s so great about Social Media: Connecting Accounts




## Save the Date

*2nd Annual  
Women In Agriculture  
Conference*

**October 23-24, 2015**

*Canaan Valley Resort &  
Conference Center, Davis, WV*

Stay up-to-date by going to

<http://anr.ext.wvu.edu/ag-women/wia-conference>



*Like us on Facebook at WVU Extension Service - Women in Agriculture!*

- Direct Marketing and Creating a Good First Impression
- Pest Be Gone
- On Farm Processing
- Apps to Make Life on the Farm Easier

If you are interested in attending the conference, be sure to keep an eye out for more information both online and in office, for both the WVU County Extension and the Tygarts Valley Conservation District.





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**Visit us online**

<http://www.wvca.us>



### **District Supervisors**

#### **Barbour County**

Beebob Wolfe, Chairman  
Sigrid Teets

#### **Randolph County**

Joe Gumm  
Tom Warner

#### **Taylor County**

Sheldon Findley  
Joe Shaffer

#### **Tucker County**

James Nester, SR.  
David Bonner

#### **Upshur County**

Rex Reeder, Secretary / Treasurer  
John Sencindiver, Vice Chairman

### **Bluebird Houses Available**



The district is again selling bluebird houses to the public. Each house costs \$10.00 and all proceeds will be used to help fund the district's educational programs. If you would like to purchase a birdhouse, stop by our district office between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call the office for more information.

#### **Our Mission:**

*"To provide for and promote the protection and conservation of West Virginia's soil, land, water, and related resources for the health, safety, and general welfare of the state's citizens."*