

Find Your Passion.

Contact: Kimberly Osborne (304) 766-3363 kosborne@wvstateu.edu

> April 19, 2017 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## W.Va. State University, USDA, Others to Host Meet-and-Greet Session with Farmers

INSTITUTE, W.Va. – West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Service is partnering with representatives from a variety agricultural agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to host a meet-and-greet session with farmers at the National Guard Armory in Welch, W.Va., on Tuesday, May 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. Agency representatives will discuss the programs and services available to West Virginia's farmers and growers. The event is free to attend.

"This session will provide a great platform for our state's farmers to meet agricultural service providers and learn more about the programs that are available to help them become more profitable and productive," said WVSU Extension Agent Brad Cochran.

Similar events in the region have connected more than 40 farmers to agency representatives for information and resources.

Participating agencies include the USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Rural Development, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Guyan and Southern Conservation Districts, West Virginia AgrAbility and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Attendees will learn about the services each agency provides and determine if they are eligible for participation in various programs.

The event is cohosted by McDowell County Farms and supported by Farm Service Agency Cooperative Agreement FA-WV-6-039, with additional funding provided by the USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher (2501) Program.

Registration is required by contacting Cochran at (304) 204-4021 or <u>bcochran2@wvstateu.edu</u>. The Welch Armory is located at 600 Stewart St. in Welch. Follow <u>West Virginia State University</u> on Facebook and Twitter <u>@WVStateU</u>.

West Virginia State University is a public, land grant, historically black university, which has evolved into a fully accessible, racially integrated, and multi-generational institution, located in Institute, W.Va. As a "living laboratory of human relations," the university is a community of students, staff, and faculty committed to academic growth, service and preservation of the racial and cultural diversity of the institution. Its mission is to meet the higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research.