

We are pleased to present West Virginia Bulletin No. 32. This compilation of information encompasses the results of a multitude of surveys necessary to provide timely, unbiased data needed for agriculture's up-to-date information system. I hope you find this bulletin to be not only a useful tool in looking at our state's overall farm picture, but a declaration of how our state's agriculture continues to not only survive but thrive. The publication and dissemination of agricultural statistics are possible only through the support of the entire agricultural industry. We thank the respondents who voluntarily completed the questionnaires on inventories and production; the agribusinesses who graciously provided information on their inventories and purchases; University Extension Service personnel for their consistent and timely reporting on our Weekly Crop-Weather reports; and the many other state and federal agencies within the department of Agriculture for their support of our programs and West Virginia Agriculture. This joint effort is essential for maintaining reliable facts on changes occurring in the agricultural industry - an industry that involves more people than any other in the world. Since each of us relies on food and fiber only available from this industry, we should give thanks to those who make it possible for us to be well fed and clothed.

Agriculture is an industry that is vital to everyone's well being. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Gus R. Douglass, Deputy Commissioners Janet Fisher and Steve Hannah, and their entire staff work tirelessly to insure the voice of West Virginia agriculture is heard in Charleston, WV, Washington, D.C. and the world. Their work in promoting agribusinesses, expanding farmers markets, researching opportunities to increase the profitability for family farms, and finding alternative ways to market agricultural products have the potential for helping to rejuvenate West Virginia's rural landscape. With the number of people in farming generally decreasing, our voice is harder to hear than ever. Please take the time to speak up on behalf of agriculture to your state representatives and senators, your organizations and your press. Only together will they hear our voice, giving us an opportunity to help shape the future.

We also extend our thanks to our dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators and our office personnel who conduct the surveys and compile the statistics. We would also like to thank the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Communications Division for their expertise in helping design this bulletin. The preparation of this bulletin is a large task, and it is possible only through the contributions of everyone involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale R. King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale R. King
State Statistician