

**WVDA COVID-19 Pandemic Resources
for
Farmers and Food Producers**

Issued 4/10/2020



agriculture.wv.gov | 304.558.3550

businessdevelopment@wvda.us

A COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Directory for Farmers and Food Producers

Issue Date: 4/10/2020

WVDA Business Development Division

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Business Development Division remains available to help farmers, processors and distributors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff quickly adopted teleworking technology and disease prevention practices to minimize the chance of spreading the coronavirus while maintaining our functionality. We have listed below several resources that may be of assistance to our farmers and producers.

CONTACT US: If there's anything we can do during this crisis or afterward, please contact our office at 304-558-2210, businessdevelopment@wvda.us or contact a staff member directly using their numbers listed in this directory.

General COVID-19 Web Resources

- **Recommendations for West Virginia farmers' markets* during pandemic:**

<https://agriculture.wv.gov/Media/news%20releases/Documents/WVDA%20Issues%20Recommendations%20for%20Farmers%20Markets,%20Encourages%20Support%20for%20Local%20Foods.pdf>

**Several WV counties are now under stricter regulations by order of the Governor due to the increased spread of COVID-19. Please refer to <https://governor.wv.gov/News/Pages/default.aspx> to see which counties this affects.*

- **USDA Food and Nutrition Service COVID-19 Homepage**
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>
- **West Virginia COVID-19 Homepage**
<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

U.S. Small Business Administration Pandemic Programs

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program

- <https://covid19relief.sba.gov>
- <https://zoom.us/j/498988675?pwd=a2ZocTRLd0pjaHF6TWtoKzZrSmJ0Zz09>

Meeting Phone: 646-876-9923, Meeting ID: 498 988 675#, no registration requirement, limited to the first 100 participants (log on early)

SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Programs

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

Basic Primer on CARES Act Especially for Farmers and Food Businesses

<https://www.growingfarmers.com/caresresource>

Specialized Resources

Child Nutrition Webinars

April 16 — [Possibilities Through Partnership During COVID-19](#)

April 23 — [Maintaining Program Participation During COVID-19](#)

Child Nutrition Resources

- **[Ensuring Access to the Child Nutrition Programs in the Event of School Closures](#)**
Guidelines from FRAC for adjusting Child Nutrition Programs if schools are closed.
- **[Emerging Strategies & Tactics For Meal Service During School Closures Related To The Coronavirus](#)**
This resource from No Kid Hungry highlights meal distribution strategies put into place across the country in response to widespread school closures due to the coronavirus.
- **[Summary of School Districts and Program Providers' Efforts to Serve Meals During School Closings](#)**
An active spreadsheet compiled by FRAC of school districts serving meals and broken down by state, district, and model.
- **[Emergency Meal Service Toolkit](#)**
Resources from Lunch Assist for planning and modifying school meal operations in response to COVID-19, including answers to frequently asked policy questions, templates, and safety tips and procedures to protect nutrition services staff and the families they serve.

- **Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring**
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-monitoring-nationwide-waiver>
- **No Kid Hungry Coronavirus Grant Request**
<https://www.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-grant-request>
- **USDA Temporarily Extends Expiration Dates for Some Good Agricultural Practices**
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-temporarily-extends-expiration-dates-some-good-agricultural-practices-domestic-origin>
- **USDA Guidance on grants management requirements due to COVID-19 (includes Specialty Crop Block Grant Program & ACER Grant)**
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf>
- **American Farmland Trust Farmer Relief Fund Grant Programs**
<https://farmland.org/farmer-relief-fund/>

WVDA Business Development Division Contacts

Cassey Bowden, Division Director
cbowden@wvda.us, 304-558-2210

Connie Tolley, Executive Assistant
ctolley@wvda.us, 304-558-2210

Amanda Kittel, Administrative Assistant
akittel@wvda.us, 304-558-2210

Patty Sine, Administrative Assistant Inwood Office
psine@wvda.us, 304-229-5828

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & VETERANS TO AGRICULTURE

- **Mary Dickerson, Assistant Director**
mdickerson@wvda.us, 304-380-4657
- **Nathan Bergdoll, Eastern Region Planning Coordinator**
nbergdoll@wvda.us, 304-703-5575
- **Lacey Davidson, Southern Region Planning Coordinator**
ldavidson@wvda.us, 304-546-7930
- **Dane Gaiser, Veterans to Agriculture Program Coordinator**
dgaiser@wvda.us, 304-932-7454
- **Kacey Gantzer, Northern Region Planning Coordinator**
kgantzer@wvda.us, 304-280-2187
- **Bruce Murphy, Special Programs Coordinator**
brmurphy@wvda.us, 304-993-8073
- **Zachary Perry, Horticulturist/High Tunnel Specialist**
zperry@wvda.us, 304-208-2800

MARKETING

- **Beth Southern, Assistant Director**
bsouthern@wvda.us, 304-552-3620
- **Buddy Davidson, Outreach Specialist**
bdavidson@wvda.us, 304-382-4948
- **Georgia Luke, Marketing Specialist**
gluke@wvda.us, 304-400-9719
- **Derek Richard, Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Supervisor and Auditor**
drichard@wvda.us, 304-671-1323
- **Jeff Most, Inspector**
jmost@wvda.us

PROGRAMS

- **Leslie Boggess, Assistant Director**
lboggess@wvda.us, 304-942-2056