Agriculture & Natural Resources Specialists

Basden, Tom
Extension Specialist – Nutrition Management
Extension Clinical Associate Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Soil and Water Conservation Practices
- Organic Soil Amendments and Composting
- Interpretation of Soil Test Results
- Soil Fertility Recommendations for Lime products, Fertilizers, Manure and Composts

Need help? I can help you with:
- Cover Crop Management and Selection
- Manure Management, Storage, Utilization and Conservation
- Site Specific Nutrient Management Plan Development and Implementation
- Composting Process and Utilization for Homeowners, Farmers and Municipalities
- Conservation Farming Practices to Improve Water Quality
- Private Well Water Quality and Well Site Maintenance

Chandran, Rakesh S.
Extension Weed Specialist and IPM Coordinator
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Areas of Expertise:
- Integrated Pest Management Coordination
- Weed Management
- Turfgrass Management

Need help? I can help you with:
- Weed Management in row crops
- Weed Management in tree fruit
- Weed Management in pasture and hayfield
- Weed Management in home lawns and other turf
- Weed Management in vegetables
- Aquatic Weed Management
- Turfgrass management

Frank, Daniel
Extension Specialist – Entomology
Extension Assistant Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
- Entomology
- Integrated Pest Management

Need help? I can help you with:
- Insect identification
- Insect control

Danilovich, Mira
Extension Specialist – Consumer Horticulture, Master Gardeners Coordinator
Extension Associate Professor
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Area of Expertise:
- Commercial Horticulture/Tree Fruits Production
- Varieties
- Rootstocks
- Pruning for Canopy and Crop Management
- Orchard Design/Growing System and Orchard Establishment
- Integrated Crop Management Systems (ICM-IPM, Nutrient Management, Insect and Disease Management in Fruit crops)
- Plant Growth Regulators
- Irrigation
- Harvesting
- Consumer Horticulture (Landscape Evaluation, Plant Protection & Nutrient Management)
• Master Gardeners program

Need Help? I can help you with:
• Planning for a new orchard, small and/or large
• Growing tree fruits, small fruits, unusual and/or not-so-common fruits
• Nutrient management/fertilization needs of tree fruits, small fruits, lawns and ornamentals
• Orchard irrigation needs
• Pruning tree fruits, small fruits and ornamentals
• Tree fruits and small fruits diseases identification, forecasting, and management
• Research and Outreach programs (Fruit production)
• Landscape evaluation and recommendations for landscape health protection

**Jett, Lewis**
Extension Specialist – Commercial Horticulture
Extension Assistant Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
• Commercial Horticulture
• Research and Outreach Programs (focus on methods to lengthen the traditional growing season and expanding locally grown production of fruits and vegetables)
• Stand Establishment
• Seed Production
• Organic Horticulture

Need help? I can help you with:
• Growing small fruits and vegetables
• Season extension technology
• Fertilization and pest management of fruits and vegetables
• Irrigation methods for vegetables and fruits
• Post harvest handling of fruits and vegetables
McConnell, Tom
Extension Specialist – Director of the WV Small Farm Center
Extension Program Leader
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Areas of Expertise:
- Risk Management/ Crop Insurance
- Marketing of agricultural products including specialty crops
- Small farm issues
- Farm planning
- Estate planning and farm business succession planning
- Income Tax
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Farm Management including farm budgets

Need help? I can help you with:
- Developing farm enterprise budgets
- Developing estate planning strategies
- Developing farm succession planning strategies
- Record keeping
- SARE Farmer/ Grower Grants
- Sourcing local food and specialty crops
- Value adding to agricultural products
- Farmers Markets
- Presenting to non-farm audience about WV Agriculture including:
  - Local food
  - Agriculture’s contribution to the economy
  - Farmers market impacts
- Farm planning for experienced and new and beginning farmers
- Determining your cost per unit of production

McGill, Dave
Extension Specialist – Forest Resource Management
Extension Professor
Appalachian Hardwood Center
338-B Percival Hall
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PO Box 5125
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Areas of Expertise:

- Forest Stewardship Planning (Selling timber, Silviculture)
- Nontimber forest products (Christmas trees, Medicinal herbs, Shiitake mushrooms)
- Invasive Species Control
- Woodland Owners Associations
- International Forestry
- Organizational and Event Affiliations
  - WV Forest Stewardship Committee
  - WV Forestry Association
  - WV Christmas Tree Growers Association
  - WV 4H Forestry Contest
  - WV Forest Industries Camp
  - Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
  - National 4H Forestry Invitational

Need help? I can help you with:

- Guidance on selling timber
- Selecting a forester to serve your woodland management needs
- Diversifying woodland income from alternative forest products
- Getting in touch with other woodland owners and organizations
- Growing shiitake mushrooms
- Setting up forestry education workshops for diverse audiences
- How to treat invasive species in woodland settings

Matlick, Darin
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Clinical Associate Professor
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Areas of Expertise:

- Beef Reproduction (Including embryo transfer management, genetics, etc.)
- Beef bull management
- Heifer development
- Immunology of cattle
- Herd health
- Bovine surgeries

Need help? I can help you with:

- Design a vaccination program for livestock
- Help develop herd health programs
- Treatment options for livestock diseases
- Select cattle breeding stock
- Disease management
- Reproductive management of cattle

Moritz, Joe
Extension Specialist – Poultry
Extension Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
- Feed Manufacture
- Non-ruminant Nutrition
- Broiler Production
- Organic Broiler Production
- Turkey Production
- Feed additive assessment

Need help? I can help you with:
- Nutrition issues with poultry
- Management issues with poultry
- Organic poultry production
- 4-H & FFA poultry related issues
- Poultry judging
- Poultry education

Owen, Sheldon
Extension Specialist – Wildlife
Extension Assistant Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat management
- Natural history of select wildlife species
- White-Tailed deer damage
- Coyote depredation
- Bats
Need help? I can help you with:

- Managing your woodlot for wildlife
- Managing your farmland for wildlife
- Wildlife natural history
- Early successional habitat management
- White-tailed deer damage management
- Food plot management
- Improving pollinator habitat
- Bat ecology and management

**Rahman, Mafuzur**

Extension Specialist – Plant Pathology
Extension Assistant Professor
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Areas of Expertise:

- Plant disease diagnostics (both morphological and molecular) and recommendations to minimize losses due to diseases
- Plant disease forecasting utilizing meteorological information so that growers can adopt necessary preventative measures to save crop from an epidemics
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to provide optimum disease control from the use of minimum levels of pesticides
- Extension education and outreach
- Applied Plant Disease Management research with Vegetables and Small fruits. Innovative molecular approach in plant disease diagnostics

Need help? I can help you with:

- Diagnosis of plant disorders (Biotic or Abiotic). * Recommendations for Plant Disease Management
- Conducting applied research on recurrent and economically important plant diseases especially on vegetables and small fruits
- Adopting and implementing IPM approach for pest management in crop production systems
- Pesticide safety and education pertaining to certification and re-certification for pesticide applicator’s license
Rayburn, Ed  
Extension Specialist – Agronomy  
Extension Professor  
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Areas of Expertise:  
- Pasture, hay, and silage production and harvest management  
- Soil fertility, fertilizing, and liming of forage crops (nutrient management in pastures, hay fields, and meadows)  
- Beef, dairy, sheep, and goat nutrition, feeds, and feeding; Field crop production (corn and small grains)  
- Establishing wildlife food plots  

Need help? I can help you with:  
- Fertilizer and liming rec. for forage crops  
- Grazing management of pastures  
- Managing legumes in pastures and hay crops  
- Livestock nutrition in grazing systems

Singh-Knights, Doolarie  
Extension Specialist – Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Extension Assistant Professor  
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Area of Expertise:  
- Agritourism/Farm Diversification  
  - Assessing farm’s potential  
  - Business planning and evaluation  
  - Best practice strategies and codes of conduct  
- Farm Management and Economics  
  - Financial analysis and record keeping  
  - Enterprise and whole-farm planning  
  - Small ruminant production and marketing strategies  
  - Good agricultural practices  

Need help? I can help you with:  
- Assessing your property for agritourism (AT) potential
• Developing business plans and partial budgets for AT ventures
• Recommending ‘best practice’ strategies and ‘codes of conduct’ for operating an AT venture
• Conducting financial analyses and developing enterprise budgets and other appropriate records for agricultural operations
• Developing enterprise plans (financial and marketing plans) for agricultural operations
• Advising producers on Good Agricultural Practices.
• Speaking to youths and general audiences on starting an agricultural business

Shaffer, Kevin
Extension Specialist – Livestock Production
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Areas of Expertise:
• Ruminant Nutrition and Feed Efficiency (Beef Cattle Emphasis)
• Ruminant Feed Efficiency
• Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Programs
• Beef Cattle Production and Management

Need help? I can help you with:
• Tips and advice on livestock handling systems
• Bull and heifer selection
• Marketing feeder cattle

Skousen, Jeff
Extension Specialist – Land Reclamation
Extension Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
• Soil science
• Environmental science
• Reclamation of disturbed soils
• Reclamation of disturbed lands and improvement of water quality
• Mine drainage control and treatment
• Overburden and soil analysis
- Re-vegetation of disturbed lands
- Reforestation
- Post mining land use development
- Directs graduate student research
- Publishes results in journals and proceeding
- Presents findings at professional meetings

Need help? I can help you with:
- Revegetation Issues
- Acid Soils and Liming Principles
- Reforestation
- Tree Identification
- Plant Ecology
- Drainage Issues
- Soil Erosion and Landslides
- Water treatment (industrial and domestic)
- Septic Tanks and Drain Fields

Spong, Ben
Extension Specialist – Forest Operations
Extension Assistant Professor
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Areas of Expertise:
- Logging
- Road building
- Forestry best management practices
- Trucking and transportation
- Biomass and biofuels, woods safety, most topics dealing with forestry activities between growing the tree and sawing the tree into boards

Need help? I can help you with:
- The process to sell timber off of all sizes of landholdings
- Logging contracting activities
- Business management activities for logging businesses
- Timber prices
- Logging safety activities
- Certification of forest products
- Timber harvesting equipment and techniques