



# NextGen

## The Next Generation of WV Agriculture Professionals

### Goal One

>> Create WV Agriculture Education Completer curriculum and release to WV Agriculture Education Teachers <<

- Ten WV Ag Teachers have been contracted to write the curriculum containing 150 days of content. Each unit includes a Highlighted USDA Career, lesson plan, PPT presentation, formative and summative evaluations, handouts, lab plans, etc. An additional seven curricula will be contracted from 2024-2025.
- A website has been developed to host the curriculum.
- Over 8,000 WV agriculture education students will benefit from the WV agriculture curriculum during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Curriculum will be piloted for two years and then released nationally.
- WV has never had an entire state curriculum available for teachers; this program will aid teacher preparation and retention. The curriculum is a great way to connect WVSU and USDA to all students, and provides recruitment opportunities for WVSU and future USDA employees.
- This initiative will be sustainable for multiple years with minor curriculum updates. Funds used for goal 1 will provide a positive return for all involved!

### Goal Two

>> Provide scholarships to students entering into FANH majors at West Virginia State University <<

- Ten NEXTGEN Scholars were accepted for the 2024-25 school year. Out of WVSU's group, three were selected to become USDA 1890 Scholars. Seven NEXTGEN Scholars will be participating in Cohort I for 2024-25.
- Three of our NEXTGEN Scholars are First Generation Post-Secondary Students.
- Two of the NEXTGEN Scholars are WVSU FFA officers and are serving as President and Vice President during the 2024-2025 school year, which is a first-time occurrence!
- All WV NEXTGEN Scholars are AGED secondary completers; this means that each scholar has taken at least three high school agriculture courses and had at least two total years of a Supervised Agriculture Experience Program. AGGIES recruiting AGGIES!
- All WVSU NEXTGEN Scholars are pursuing majors that can lead to a USDA career.
- 23 additional NEXTGEN Scholars join the program in the next two years.

## Goal Three

>> Provide immersive FANH Internships throughout student's post-secondary education <<  
with West Virginia Department of Agriculture

- Each NEXTGEN Scholar will receive 1,500 hours of paid internship with the WVDA; this includes WV NRCS and WV FSA.
- NEXTGEN Scholars will start their internship in October.
- Internship hours can be used during school or the summer.
- Every NEXTGEN Scholar will gain 1,500 hours of agriculture experience.
- NEXTGEN Scholars can choose internship areas and explore other areas throughout their four years as a NEXTGEN Scholar.

## A School of Agriculture at West Virginia State University

WVSU was founded in 1891 under the Second Morrill Act to provide “instruction in agriculture, the mechanical arts, English language and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural and economic science: to the black citizens of the state where these students had no access to other higher education institutions.” In the late 1950s, WVSU lost its land-grant status, and after decades of effort, Congress redesignated WVSU as a land-grant institution in 1999. Today, WVSU remains the only land-grant institution without a School of Agriculture.

West Virginia's Senior United States Senator Joe Manchin and WVSU President Ericke S. Cage hosted a roundtable discussion in August 2023 on the need for an agriculture school at the university. “West Virginia has a tremendous climate for agriculture,” Manchin said. “We should be doing more and more of it, and we can, but you have to have people that have that education and understanding of what we are doing, why we are doing it and how we can do it better.”

On June 18th, 2024, Governor Jim Justice signed Senate Bill 1003 on campus, which allocated \$50 million to construct a new state-of-the-art agricultural laboratory at West Virginia State University. The cutting-edge facility, shared with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, will provide valuable laboratory and classroom space for faculty and students and play an essential role in creating a new School of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources at WVSU.

Establishing the school is an ambitious initiative. A beacon of hope, it will ensure that the next generation of agricultural professionals is well-equipped to address and overcome the agricultural challenges in West Virginia.



## Meet the WVSU NextGen Team



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## Meet our Partners

**USDA** National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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