

WEST VIRGINIA - 2022

Forest Health Highlights

The Resource

The West Virginia landscape is dominated by more than 11.8 million acres of forest. Due in large part to its varied topography, the forest is a rich diversity of oaks, hickories, spruce, pines, and the WV State Tree—sugar maple. Ninety percent of all forests in West Virginia are privately owned, but there are 8 State Forests, 36 State Parks, 109 Wildlife Management Areas, 2 National Forests, 4 National Park Areas, and 2 National Wildlife Refuges which all provide public enjoyment.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Forest Management Program is administered by the West Virginia Division of Forestry. The intent of the program is to help private, nonindustrial forest landowners improve their forests by managing them in a sound, scientific manner. Within this program, the Forest Stewardship Program offers a forest management plan written by a professional forester based on the landowner's objectives. Other programs, EQIP and CREP, provide financial assistance for recreation, forest improvement, soil and water protection, wetlands protection, fisheries habitat enhancement, wildlife habitat enhancement, tree planting, and improvement of forest roads.

Special Issues

LYMANTRIA DISPAR PROGRAMS

The objectives of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Lymantria dispar (Gypsy Moth) Program are to continue to minimize the adverse impact on forest resources, preserve aesthetic values, protect people from the annoyance and health problems that can occur when in contact with large numbers of Lymantria dispar (gypsy moth) caterpillars, and slow the spread of Lymantria dispar by reducing populations on the advancing front.

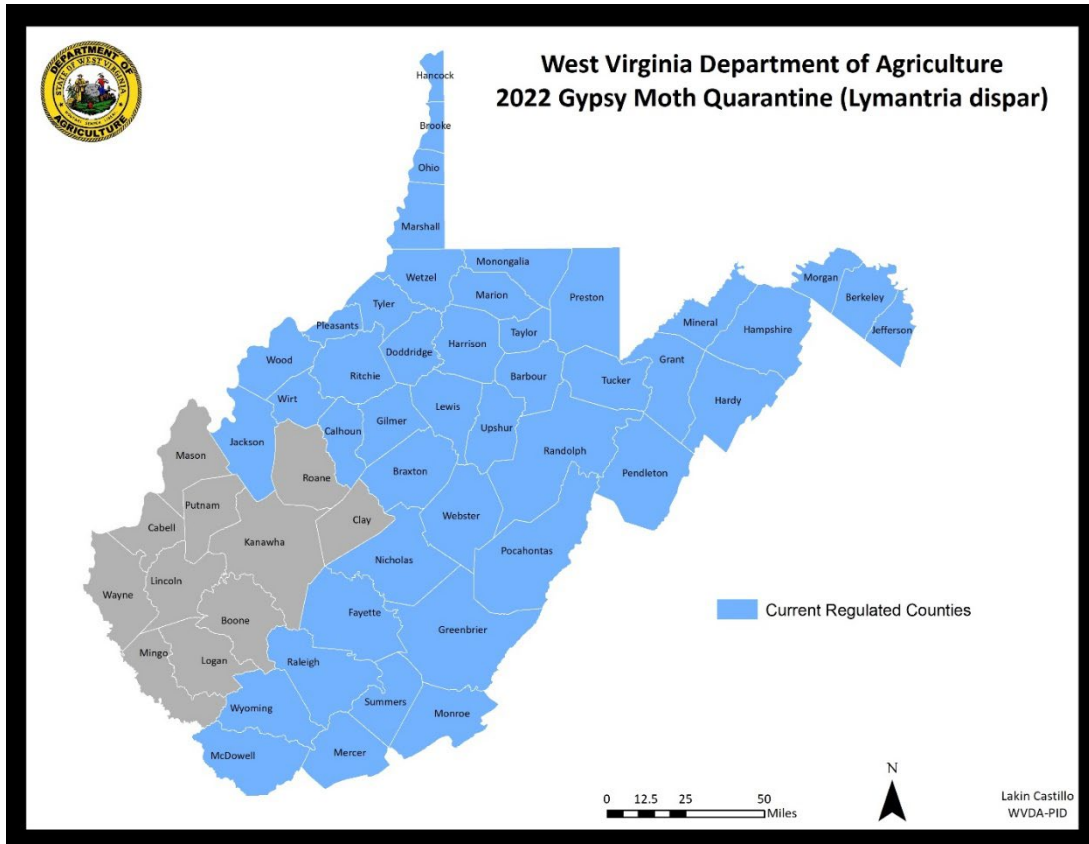
GYPSY MOTH QUARANTINE

West Virginia currently has 44 counties regulated and considered generally infested by Lymantria dispar. The WVDA regulates the movement of articles out of these counties into non quarantined counties or states. There were no new counties quarantined in 2022.

SLOW THE SPREAD REGULATORY (Lymantria dispar)

There were no regulatory insecticide treatments in West Virginia in 2022.

Staff visited 76 sites to investigate the movement of articles capable of transporting the gypsy moth into non infested areas. Areas visited included Christmas tree sales lots, plant nurseries, mobile home dealers, campgrounds, firewood producers, interstate weigh stations, log yards, sawmills and relative trade shows.



LYMANTRIA DISPAR (GYPSY MOTH) POPULATION

West Virginia’s gypsy moth population in 2022 appears to be increasing in most areas of the state.

LYMANTRIA DISPAR (GYPSY MOTH) COOPERATIVE STATE COUNTY LANDOWNER PROGRAM (CSCL)

WVDA Staff are currently responding to landowner requests and completing surveys on forested lands in West Virginia to determine areas at risk for Lymantria dispar defoliation and/or mortality in the spring of 2023. Staff are currently using 1/40-acre plot surveys to determine areas at risk and plan to have surveys completed by late December. Qualifying counts have been found in the Eastern Panhandle.

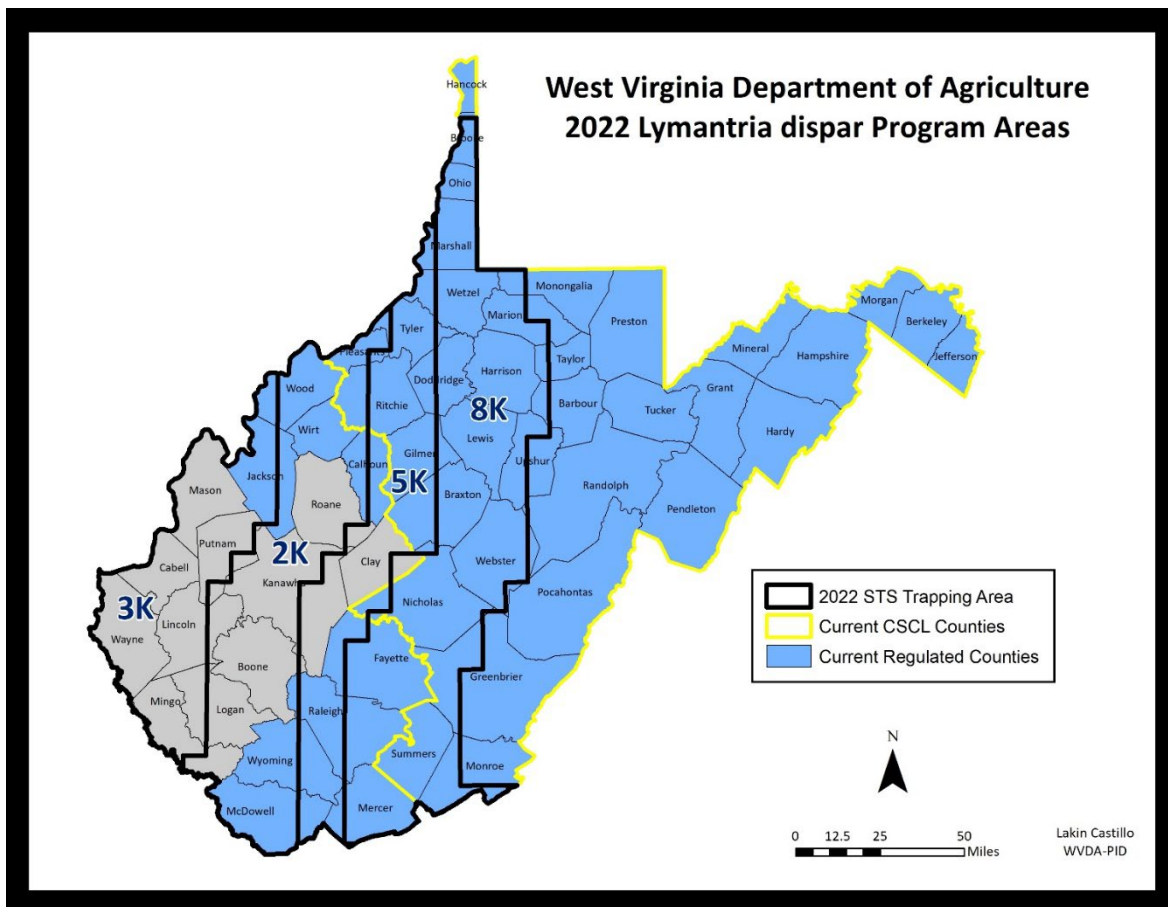
The WVDA did not conduct any treatments in the Cooperative State County Landowner (CSCL) Program in 2022.

The CSCL program covered three quarters of the state in 2022.

STS SLOW THE SPREAD TRAPPING PROGRAM

In West Virginia, the Action Area covered approximately 4,283,360 acres, while the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas covered 5,694,052 acres. The 2k and 3k base-grids in the Action Area were placed using Delta traps. Milk carton traps were used within the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas. A total of 3374 Delta traps were used in the STS Action Area and 579 Milk Carton traps were used in the Monitoring Areas. West Virginia had 8 delimit trapping areas during the trapping year of 2022. One (1) 500-meter grid with 6 delta traps, five (5) 1k grids with 48 delta traps, and two (2) 1k grids (48 milk carton traps).

WEST VIRGINIA 2022 *Lymantria dispar* PROGRAM AREAS

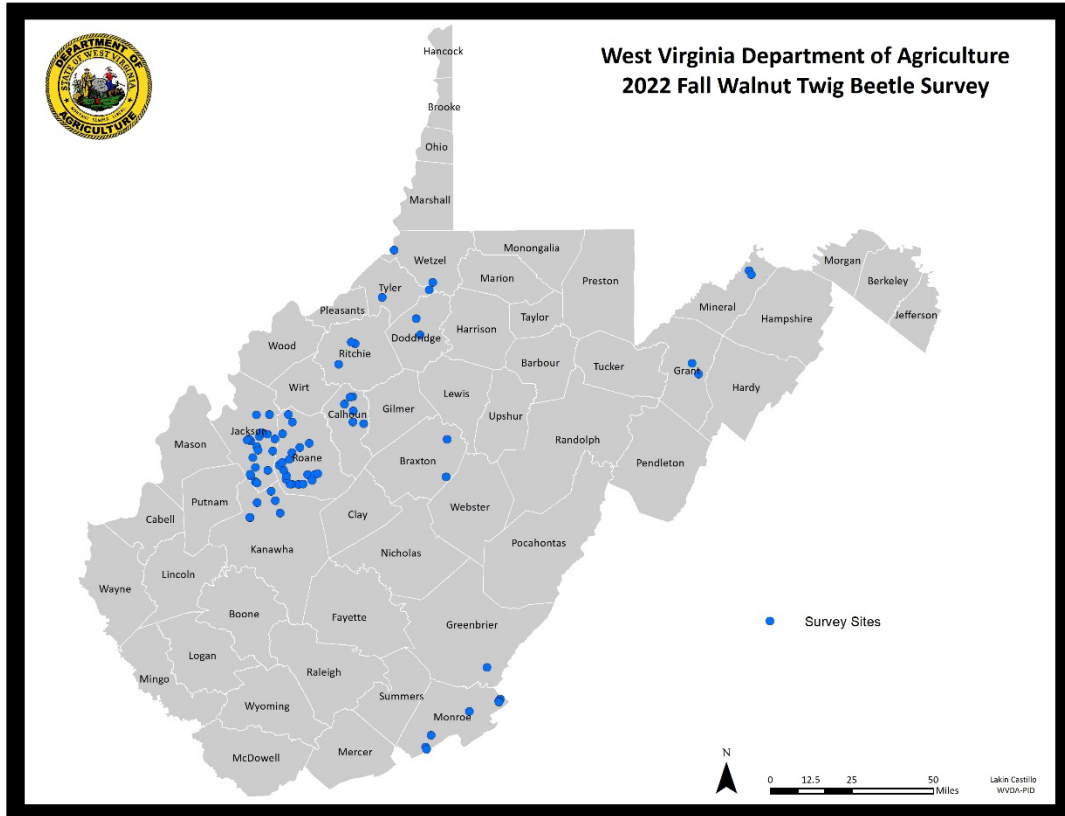


2022 STS TRAPPING BREAKDOWN

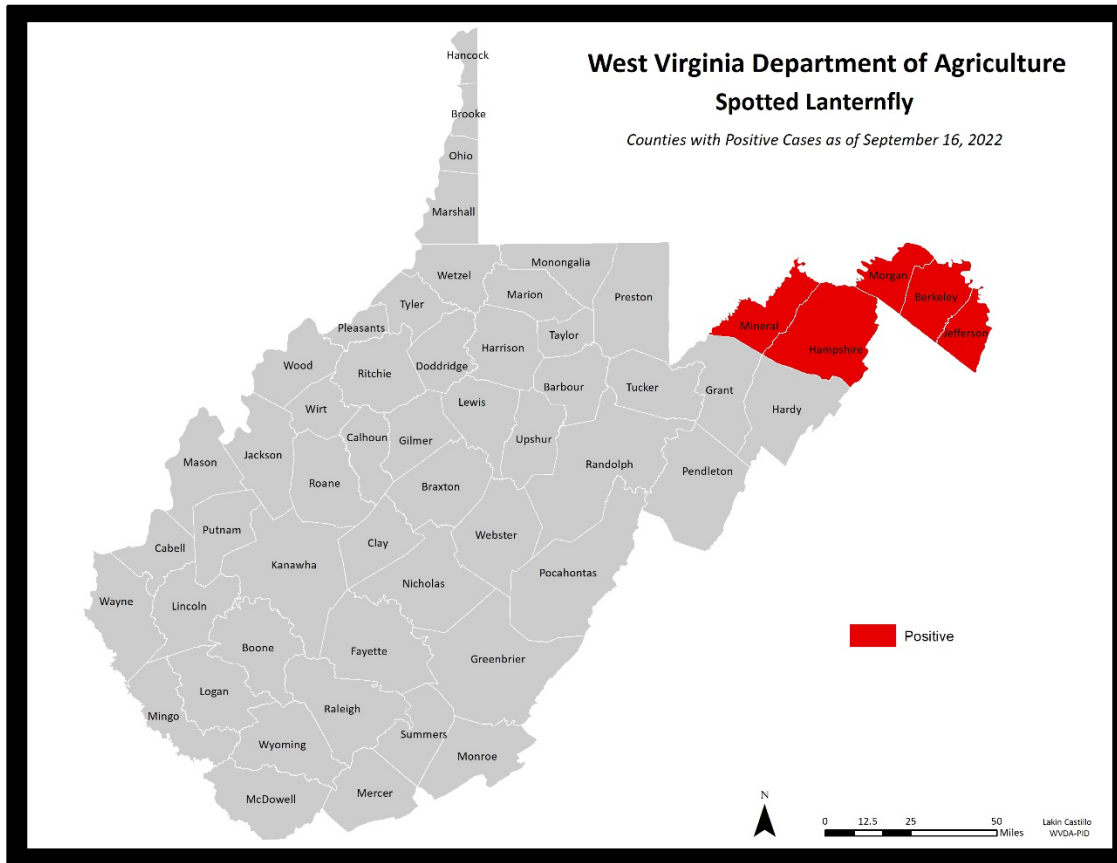
<u>Grid</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Omits</u>	<u>Set</u>
Regulatory	8	2	6
2K	2563	10	2553
3K	764	2	762
5K	308	0	308
8K	223	0	223
1K	96	1	95
500m	6	0	6
Totals	3968	15	3953
<u>Project Boundary</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Omits</u>	<u>Set</u>
STS Action Area	3,429	13	3,416
STS Monitoring	531	0	531
Regulatory	8	2	6
Totals	3,968	15	3,953
<u>Trap type</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Omits</u>	<u>Set</u>
Delta Traps	3389	15	3374
Milk Cartons	579	0	579
Totals	3,968	15	3,953

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS

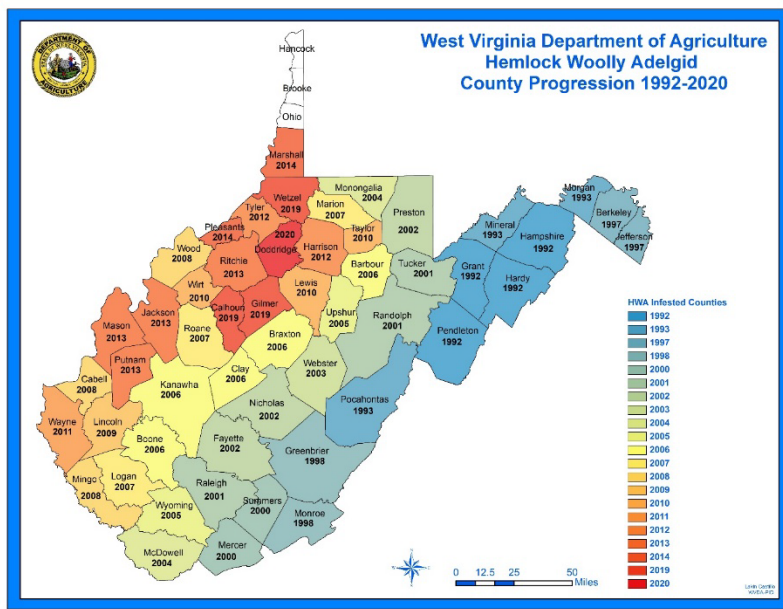
Walnut Twig Beetle Survey— Visual surveys were conducted for WTB/TCD in the summer and fall. New grant funding was not requested for FY 2022.



Spotted Lanternfly- Spotted Lanternfly has been found in five WV Counties, Berkeley, Mineral, Morgan, Hampshire and Jefferson. Visual surveys are still being conducted through the fall.

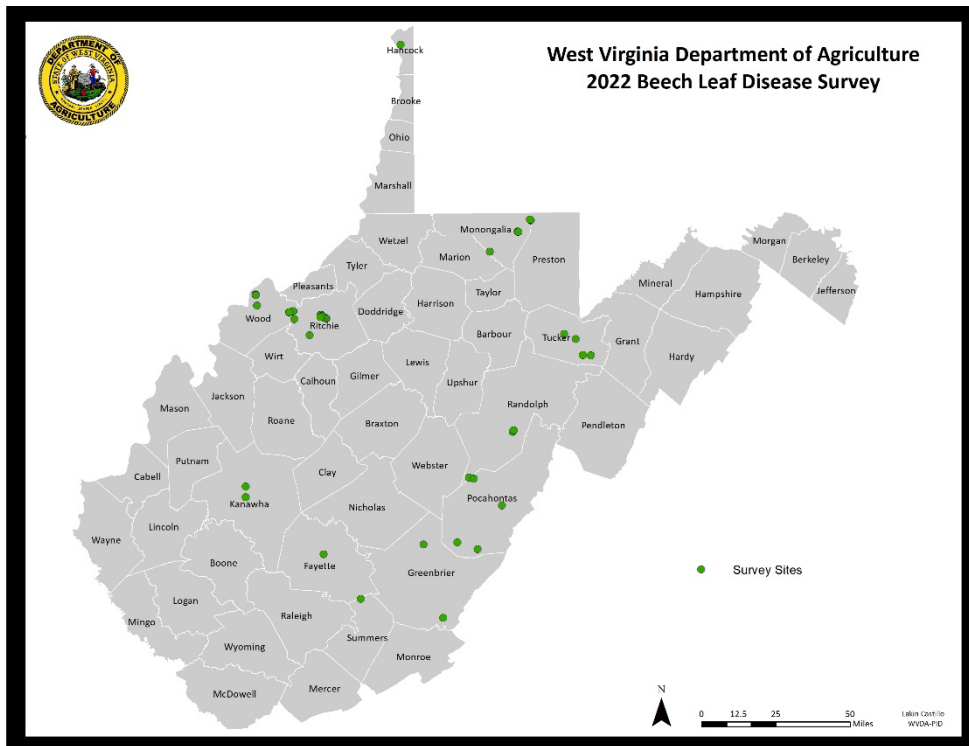


Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)—HWA can now be found in 52 WV counties. WVDA continued to treat high-value and high-visibility infested hemlocks with Imidicloprid by inserting CoreTect tablets into the soil, and trunk injections; 1362 hemlocks were treated on state lands in 2022. Previous release sites of *L. nigrinus* were monitored for predator survival and impact on HWA.



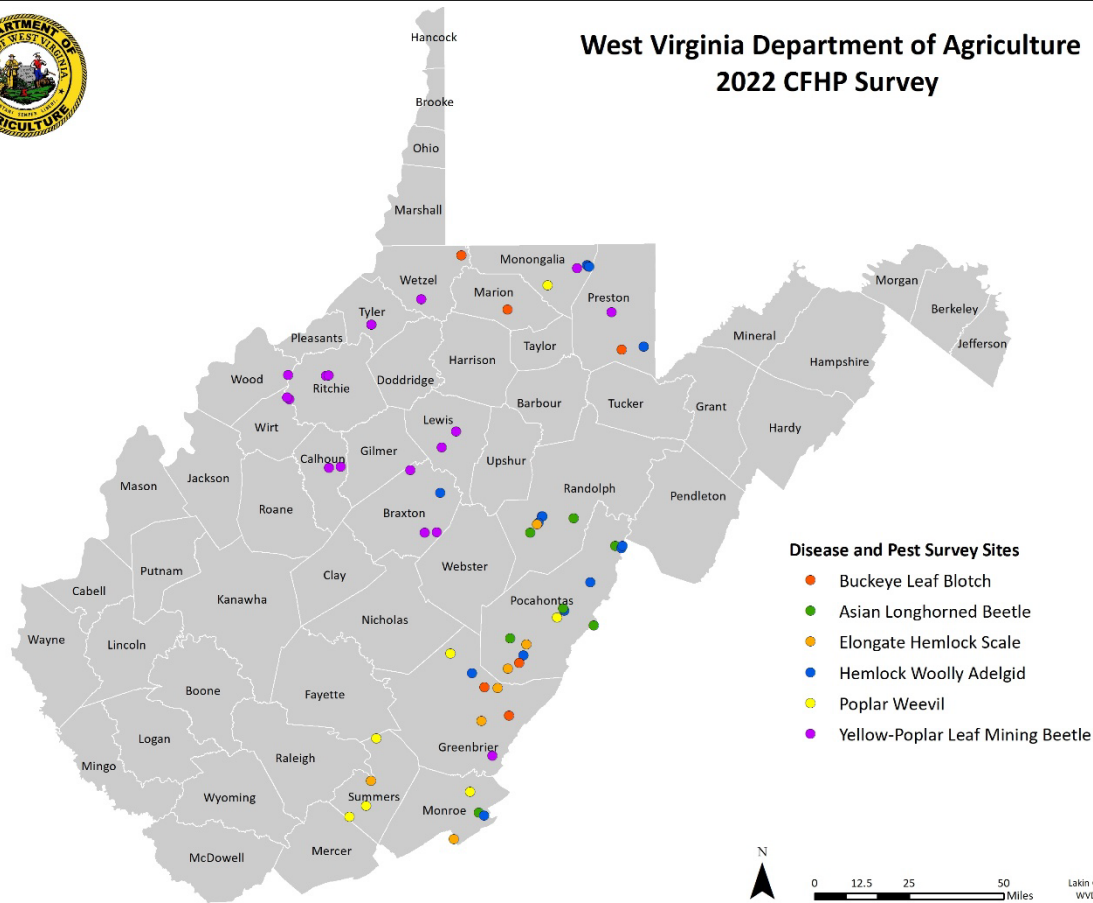
Elongate Hemlock Scale- WVDA has been found in six WV counties, Fayette, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Kanawha, Monongalia and Preston. Surveys will continue throughout the fall and winter of 2022.

Beech Leaf Disease- WVDA surveyed for Beech Leaf Disease and revisited the seven long-term monitoring plots in areas of high risk and abundant beech resource. An additional plot was established in Hancock County. BLD was found in Hancock County in the Northern Panhandle of the state in 2020 and since then the disease has been found in areas of the park adjacent to the original discovery.





West Virginia Department of Agriculture 2022 CFHP Survey



0 12.5 25 50 Miles

Lakin Castillo
WVDA-PID