

THE MANY LOOKS OF HARDY COUNTY

It takes only one look at the rich resources of Hardy County to realize that this West Virginia region is an industrial mecca for the burgeoning metropolitan East.

Fertile valleys, fed by three major rivers and bordered by the distant majesty of the Allegheny Mountains, form the backdrop for a county and the people who have built a healthy economic base on strong traditional values—family ties, loyalty, honest living and hard work.

Agricultural by tradition, with a willingness to progress into new industries and businesses suitable to this rich land, the people of Hardy County look to the future and welcome you to take a look.



*Hardy County
Development Authority*
PO Box 209
Moorefield, WV 26836
304.530.3047
304.530.6995 fax

Fresh air, forests overflowing with wildlife, rivers teeming with fish, small towns and friendly neighbors—Hardy County offers the kind of life many only dream about.

With close ties to its southern mountain heritage, tradition is the element that binds communities together. County celebrations revolve around the fun-loving spirit of the people of Hardy County—the Fall Festival, Turkey Festival, the annual West Virginia Poultry Convention & Festival, and the Heritage Weekend in September that highlights the many Hardy County homes and sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Life here can be quiet—surrounded by the solitude of undisturbed countryside—or bustling with the warm, small-town activity of Moorefield, the county seat, Wardensville and Mathias. The small-town flavor is spiced with modern town parks that feature swimming pools, playing fields, volleyball, basketball, tennis courts, a golf course, and sheltered picnic areas.

Step outside into the surrounding area and the richness of leisure-time opportunity—Lost River State Park, the George Washington National Forests, the Trout Pond Recreation Area, and Rock Cliff Lake.

Residents and visitors alike look to the rivers for the fishing in the East. In spring, white water and kayaking dominate, while hunting takes precedence in autumn. Hardy County is home to one of the largest white tail deer populations in West Virginia. For winter sports, Snowshoe and Canaan Valley offer some of the best skiing in the Mid-Atlantic area and are just a short drive.

QUALITY OF LIFE





AN EYE TO EDUCATION & LABOR

The students of today become the labor force of tomorrow. In Hardy County, values are learned early and reflected in the attitudes of the people who live and work here. The work ethic begins early, with young people helping with chores before school and taking part-time jobs.

The people of Hardy County are an industrious force with a strong work ethic, and low absenteeism is apparent in every industry.

The Hardy County public school system works closely with the South Branch Vocational Technical Center and the Eastern WV Community & Technical College to develop programs that encourage students to train for local industry needs.

Students, teachers, local government and industry representatives work together with the West Virginia University Extension Service and School of Agriculture, and the West Virginia Development Office to learn and improve techniques in poultry and wood production – Hardy County’s two larger industries – and to diversify the economy.

Education and work integrate into area festivals and community gatherings. During the annual West Virginia Poultry Convention held each July, youths in 4-H clubs compete in contests judging poultry quality from eggs to processed chickens.

Incentive and the desire to work are also reflected in the area’s industrial newcomers—computer technology, wine industry, and marble and fiberglass manufacturing.



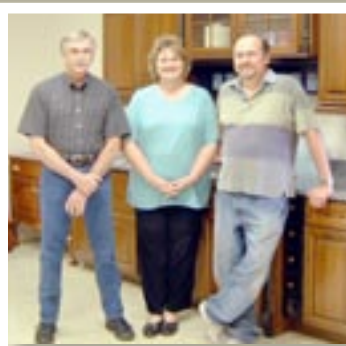
LOOK TO OUR ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIES



Agriculture is the dominant industry, with poultry production as the major agricultural enterprise. Major employers like Pilgrim's Pride, Inc. and Perdue find the rural setting and established farms of Hardy County, combined with the aggressive development of efficient industrial and business parks, the perfect environment for the vertical integration of an industry that takes poultry direct from hatching eggs to the supermarket.

Other industries utilize the open business atmosphere of Hardy County to manufacture products from West Virginia's main resource—timber. American Woodmark Corporation, Fertig Cabinet Company and Christopher Peacock build quality kitchen cabinets from West Virginia's finest woods; and wood by-products companies such as G. P. Register and Loudoun Heights Fuel Company make efficient use of wood in split rail fencing, peat moss and firewood. The hardwood and softwood found in Hardy County also supplies important local industries like fence making.

Hardy County is home to industrial computer technology, including the making of microchips for computer boards sold worldwide.





A VISION OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Local government, banks and the communities in Hardy County look to industrial development with a vision of controlled expansion that can coexist with the unspoiled natural environment.

The local banking industry provides creative support to economic development within the county.

The development of industrial and business parks in Moorefield, Wardensville, and Baker have spurred economic growth within the past decades, and the Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park opens additional acres to new business development. Parks offer water, sewage, electricity and easy accessibility to major roadways.

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc. currently offers high-speed Internet to 99.9 percent of its coverage area and Frontier provides services.





A CLOSER LOOK

Strategically located between northeastern, southern and Midwestern markets, Hardy County averages one hour from Washington, D.C., and two hours from Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

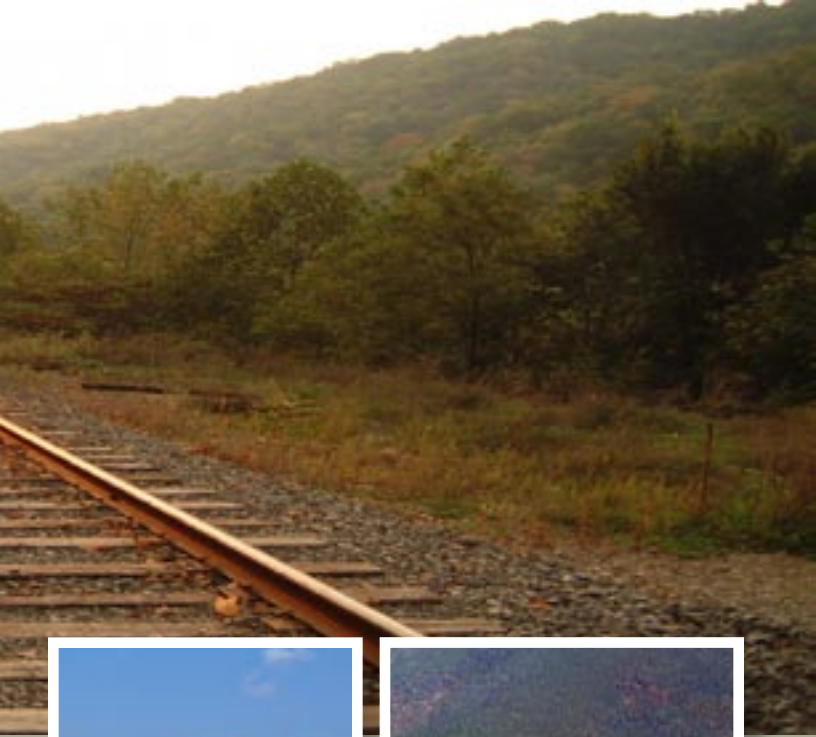
With I-81 & I-66 to the east and I-79 to the west, the county is easily accessible via major freight carriers. U.S. Route 220 and State Routes 55 and 259 transverse throughout the county.

The new section of 4-lane Corridor H offers direct interstate access from Hardy County to eastern markets via I-81 and I-66, and western access into central West Virginia by I-79.

Local air service is only 15 minutes from Moorefield and Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C., is a close one-hour drive.

The Potomac Commuter regional bus system and the South Branch Valley Railroad complete the county transportation system.

The South Branch Valley Railroad provides daily rail service that connects with the CSX at Green Spring, West Virginia. Daily runs provide cost effective transportation to and from the South Branch Valley.





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hardyrda@hardynet.com