



Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Oh September, the scent of Autumn is in the woodlands, the nighttime air is crisp. Kentuckians are still eating their share of tomatoes and squash, but the minds and tastebuds are turning back to the greens and hearty soups that these Fall months will bring.

Tune into [KY Proud Fall CSA Week](#) September 18-22, 2023 and get excited about supporting local farms and farmers in the cooler months that lie ahead.

[Save the Date for #OAK2024](#). Planning is already underway for OAK's 13th Annual Conference in January 2024. Keep an eye on OAK's website and social media as the schedule and details unfurl. [Sponsorship Opportunities](#) for the 13th Annual Conference are now available. See below for details and support the community learning.

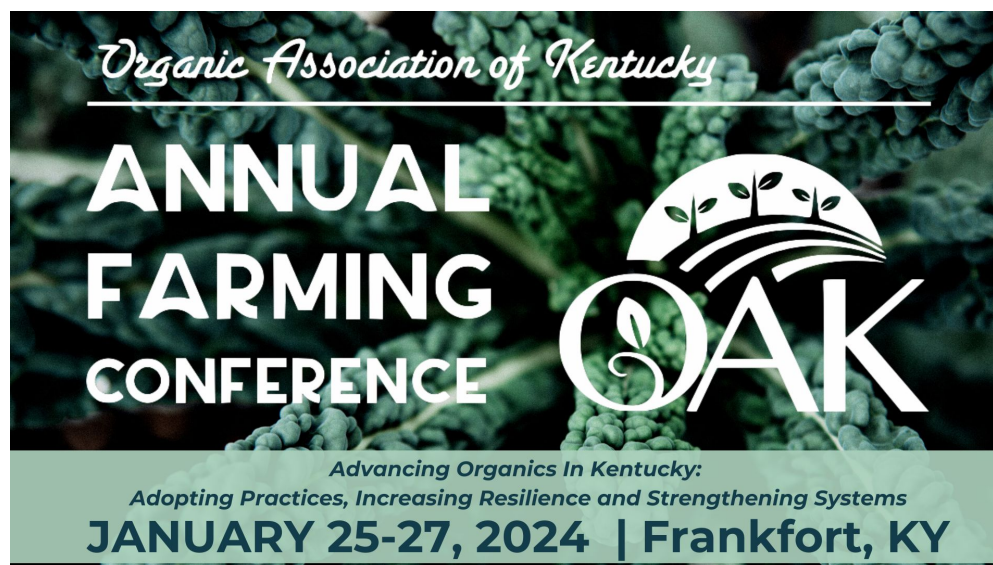
While you wait for what will be an incredible line up of learning opportunities, don't forget the #OAK2023 recordings that are now publicly available. If you were unable to attend the 2023 Conference, missed some content or just want to revisit some of the shared learning, make sure to check out the recorded sessions that are now being released monthly from OAK's 12th Annual OAK Conference held last January. We hope you can take advantage of this content.

As you read about all of these opportunities, don't forget to check out the resources at the end of this newsletter where you can find new funding programs and an array of both virtual and in-person events. Fall is approaching and there is no better time to connect with the learning opportunities that abound.

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

Save the Date #OAK2024

OAK's 13th Annual Organic Farming Conference will return to the KSU Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm in Frankfort, KY, from January 25-27, 2024. Each year the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) annual conference aims to convene 450+ attendees to participate in workshops, educational sessions and farm tours. Farmers and local food advocates connect with inspiring speakers, current research, peer farmers and regional input suppliers.



#OAK2023 Conference Recordings

While you plan to join the greater OAK Community in Frankfort on January 25-27, 2024, you can feel free to take time and inspiration from the public access recordings of the sessions from the 2023 Annual Conference. In addition to the collection of recordings released in June, July and August, the following recordings are now available to the public starting on September 1, 2023:

- **Optimizing Your Farm Sales Funnel - Marketing Success! - workshop**
- **Adding Energy Efficiency to the Family Farm**
- **Agroforestry 101: What It Is and How To Incorporate It on Your Farm**
- **Kentucky State Cost Share and Ag Water Quality Plan Basics**
- **Open Daily: Operating a Farmer-Owned Retail and Aggregation Outlet**
- **Electric Fencing for Serious Graziers: Setup and Management**

OAK will continue to release new content monthly through October. We hope you enjoy and learn from these incredible presentations!



[Watch #OAK2023 Session Recordings](#)

#OAK2024 Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

The Organic Association of Kentucky's annual farming conference, now in its 13th year, includes hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in our community food systems: farmers, researchers, nonprofit professionals, federal and state agency partners, allied service providers

and community members working collectively to build a local, resilient and healthy food system. OAK is pleased to announce Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this not-to-be-missed event in Frankfort, KY on January 25-27, 2024.

SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

Sponsorship powers farmer-to-farmer education! Revenues generated by conference sponsors are foundational to supporting the success of the event overall.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

Sponsors can count on high visibility in print and digital event promotional materials before, during and after the conference. Audience reach is estimated to be 450 attendees at the event and over 20,000 through event promotions.

Become a Sponsor

Farmer Profile: Anna Raines



Register Now for September's Farmer Field Day

The path to farming doesn’t always follow a straight line - for some, it tends to travel full circle. Anna Raines grew up in northern Kentucky but left to pursue a graduate degree in Nutritional Science at the University of Wisconsin. She and her husband Steve appreciated the thriving local agriculture in Madison (WI), including the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm program they joined and supported. That appreciation became their personal dream - to return home and start their own small farm and CSA program. In 2013, Anna and Steve opened Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm in Independence, Kentucky - a 13-acre farm serving 100 local residents through their weekly CSA and sales at two seasonal farmers markets. Devoted to growing food free from chemical herbicides and pesticides and utilizing only natural sources of fertility, Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm was Certified Naturally Grown from 2015 to 2018 and has been Certified Organic since January 2021.

"We are committed to promoting the health of our community by delivering super fresh, organic produce to the tables of families in northern Kentucky," Anna shared. "Membership in a CSA has been shown to create better health outcomes for those members because they eat way more veggies!"

Striving to increase soil health and diversify crops available to customers, Anna has learned to balance customer demand for popular crops with space limitations within their two acres of production through thoughtful succession planting, crop rotations and intentional cover crop usage. She has also scaled up the farm's harvest and packing capacity with a dedicated packshed that houses an 8x10 cooler, greens spinner, and movable packaging tables. Anna is diligent about product quality for her customers, from the soil to the shed. This emphasis stems from her training in nutritional science and desire to provide healthy food - and Anna's customers seem to recognize that quality: Rains and Sun's CSA has a waiting list every year!

Join OAK at Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm on September 19 to learn more about Anna's CSA systems and solutions. We're looking forward to hearing more about Anna's full circle journey! For an early glimpse into Anna's systems, check out the [Tools for Minimal-Till Market Farming](#) virtual field day she offered and her [Crop Planning for Small to Medium CSA](#) virtual conference session from 2021.

OAK is already planning for an inspiring, informative series of Farmer Field Days in 2024

Ideas for 2024?

Have suggestions or ideas for future farms, practices or topics to highlight? Reach out to Jenny@oak-ky.org. View previous OAK virtual events on our [OAK YouTube](#) page for recordings, snapshots and lessons learned from host farmers.

[Learn More about past Field Days and Register for September's Field Day](#)

Global Farm Metric - Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool Opportunities to Participate this Fall

Do you grow specialty crops on your farm? Are you interested in soil health and whole farm sustainability? If you answered "YES" to both of these then consider joining fellow OAK member farmers this fall to trial the Global Farm Metric - Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool.

Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) is the first international partner of a United Kingdom-based nonprofit, the Sustainable Food Trust (SFT), to trial a unique tool that measures sustainability across a farm's operation. The tool is based on SFT's [Global Farm Metric framework](#), which can be used to understand, measure and monitor the state of farming systems anywhere in the world! Kentucky's agricultural landscapes and highly diversified farms create an excellent setting to test this tool and provide farmers with a powerful story about their farm's sustainability from a holistic point of view.

OAK staff have undertaken an effort to adapt the Global Farm Metric specifically for use on Kentucky farms. The resulting first draft of the Global Farm Metric Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool (GFM-FSAT) is based on guidance from SFT, farmer input, expert advice, peer-reviewed literature, published agricultural benchmarks and best practice standards. Agricultural terms and measurement units have also been adapted to those most commonly used in Kentucky.

If you are interested to participate in the Farm Trials this fall and use the GFM-FSAT on your farm, send an email to brooke@oak-ky.org. OAK is seeking farms that produce specialty crops for Fall 2023 (specialty crops include fruits and tree nuts, vegetables, culinary herbs and spices, medicinal plants, as well as nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops). Farms do not need to be certified organic to take part. Participating farmers will receive an honorarium for completing the GFM-FSAT thanks to funding from the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation and a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant administered through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

To stay up to date on future opportunities to participate in 2024 and beyond, sign up for the OAK Climate Smart newsletter.

[Update Newsletter Preference](#)

2023 KY Proud CSA Week



Join us this September 18-22, 2023 to explore CSA (community supported agriculture) offerings from participating farms and find more local sourcing opportunities this October through December across Kentucky!

This week is dedicated to raise awareness of the CSA model, help Kentucky eaters find more way to connect with area farms through the fall months, and find more resources to store and cook seasonal foods.

Follow along with this promotion by becoming a member of the [CSA in Kentucky Facebook Group](#). This is where we will share our partner farm guide with 40+ participating farms, answer questions, and share other recipe and local food tips!

This virtual promotion is co-organized by Kentucky Proud and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Organic Association of Kentucky, and The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky.

Share the Facebook Event

Cook with a Farmer: Prepare a Local Recipe with Hickory Grove Farm



COOK
WITH A FARMER

HICKORY GROVE FARM
September 13th | 6-7:30pm ET
The Food Connection at UK

 The Food Connection   

Join Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) and Kentucky Farm Share Coalition for a hands-on CSA cooking class with Ryan Burnette, head farmer at Hickory Grove Farm, and Chef Tanya Whitehouse, chef and program manager, from The Food Connection Wednesday September 13, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30pm ET on the University of Kentucky's campus in Lexington, KY.

During this cooking class, attendees will learn more about growing for CSA and prepare a seasonal recipe from scratch with ingredients from Hickory Grove Farm! Registration is \$5 for OAK members and \$10 for non-members.

[Learn More and Register for this Class](#)

Not a OAK Member? You Really Should Be! Join OAK Today!

Do you participate in OAK's programs? Are you looking for a way to support organic and regenerative agriculture in Kentucky? Join the OAK community! OAK is an engaging group of farmers, eaters, ag professionals, entrepreneurs and more. From farmers who are using regenerative practices to those whose farms have been certified organic for decades, we are folks committed to creating a healthier, more nourishing food landscape.

If you have let your Membership lapse or have never taken the plunge to join OAK, now is the time! OAK is growing and working for an exciting future, join us. Be a part of the community working to nourish Kentucky.

[Join or Renew Your OAK Membership](#)

Interested in Going Organic?

We're here to help - for FREE! OAK's Transition Trainers will answer all your questions and work with you to refine techniques, implement best practices, demystify the regulations, develop recordkeeping systems and make a transition plan to help you apply for organic certification. Email us to learn more about process and how we help farmers have a successful certification experience.



Learn more about [OAK's Organic Transition Program and apply to work with an Organic Transition Trainer today!](#) Questions? Contact brooke@oak-ky.org or 502-219-7378.

Opportunities, the Latest News, & Calls to Action

USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination: Financial Assistance Application Process Now Open!

The application period for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) is **open through October 31, 2023**. Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are eligible to apply if they encountered discrimination by USDA in its farm loan programs before January 1, 2021, and/or currently hold assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was subject to discrimination prior to January 1, 2021. Applications for this program are **free**, and **do not require a lawyer**. All applications that are received by the deadline will be reviewed.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) specifies this assistance must be delivered to impacted producers by nongovernmental program administrators. In May, USDA signed contracts with three vendors who, together, constitute a national administrator and four regional hubs. The vendors are working together to solicit applications from eligible farmers, provide technical assistance, and make decisions about each case (following rules set by USDA). Serving producers in the eastern regions of the U.S, the Windsor Group LLC, will provide support to eligible farmers who may apply for the Program.

The Windsor Group LLC has opened a local office in Lexington, Kentucky. Anyone interested in applying or finding out more can visit the office in Lexington, KY, between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET, Monday - Friday (except for Federal holidays):

USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program – Kentucky Office

107 W Loudon Ave., Ste 101

Lexington, Ky. 40508

Free local workshops are being offered to discuss the new USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program and are being hosted by Black Soil KY (in partnership with USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Windsor Group LLC).

Workshop topics include:

- Overview of Discrimination Financial Assistance Program
- Eligibility to Apply
- Frequently Asked Questions
- The cost is free. Register at <https://www.blacksoilky.com/events>

Workshop Schedule:

Somerset

Thursday, September 7th

Somerset Community College

808 Monticello Street Somerset, KY

Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Elizabethtown

Thursday, September 14th

Hardin County Extension Office

111 Opportunity Way Elizabethtown, KY

Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Hopkinsville

Thursday, September 21st

Christian County Extension Office

2850 Pembroke Rd. Hopkinsville, KY

Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Winchester

Thursday, September 28th

Clark County Extension Office

1400 Fortune Drive Winchester, KY

Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM - 8:00PM

For more information about these workshops contact Black Soil KY

at Ashley.smith@windsorgroupllc.net, or phone (859) 312-7877.

Producers also have the option to file applications online at 22007apply.gov, by mail, or by turning in applications at the brick-and-mortar offices. The program call center number is 1-800-721-0970.

Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021. Distribution of these funds is one step in the long march towards justice and an inclusive, equitable USDA.

Please see additional information about the Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007 –

Discrimination Financial Assistance Program below in this month's Kentucky FSA Newsletter.

Further information can be found at Farmers.gov/22007.

USDA National Organic Program Releases New Publication for Understanding "Strengthening Organic Enforcement"

Consumer confidence in the USDA organic seal has fueled industry growth and market expansion, according to the agency's National Organic Program (NOP), which is tasked with ensuring rules protect the organic market as it grows. The NOP has published the [Strengthening Organic Enforcement \(SOE\)](#) final rule to improve market protections, making it harder to cheat the system, according to the NOP.

"SOE protects the integrity of the organic supply chain and builds consumer and industry trust in the USDA organic label by strengthening organic control systems, improving farm to market traceability, and providing robust enforcement of the USDA organic regulations," according to a USDA news release. To help organic certifiers and operations comply with the rule, NOP has published a new [SOE reference resource](#) online.

USDA Announces Availability of Low-Interest Physical Loss Loans for Kentucky Producers Affected by Excessive Rains, High Winds, Flash Floods, and Lightning

Physical loss loans through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay.

Application Deadline: 4/22/2024

Primary and Contiguous Counties Eligible: Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman. Ballard, McCracken, Marshall, Trigg, Livingston

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

Kentucky Cooperative Extension Launches Community Survey To Better Serve All Kentuckians

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is launching a comprehensive community assessment survey to identify and prioritize opportunities for targeted efforts to help communities thrive and shape the future of Kentucky's extension services.

Programming areas in Cooperative Extension include agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development. In addition, horticulture and fine arts programming are also offered in some counties.

The data will identify and guide state-level priorities and pinpoint specific county-level issues, informing tailored programmatic and outreach initiatives. The survey findings and county profiles will be accessible through dashboards on the UK Extension and UK Engage websites.

To participate in the 10-minute community needs assessment survey, visit <http://go.uky.edu/serveKY>

Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit Program Keeps Farm Land Farming!

The [Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit program](#) grants tax credits to selling farmers who agree to sell agricultural land and assets to beginning farmers.

Farmers wanting to sell agricultural land and assets may be eligible for a Kentucky income tax credit up to 5% of the purchase price of qualifying agricultural assets, subject to a \$25,000 calendar year cap and a \$100,000 lifetime cap.

- A beginning farmer cannot have previously owned any agricultural land for a period exceeding 10 years.
 - Selling farmers cannot have more than 50 full-time employees and must be the legal owner of agricultural land and assets sold to a beginning farmer.
 - Sales involving immediate family members do not qualify for tax credit consideration.
- Prior to completing a sale of agricultural assets, applicants should review the Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit Guidelines for more detailed program information and eligibility requirements. Visit ced.ky.gov/ksftc for complete details.
-

Educational & Farming Support

In-person Events Throughout the Region

People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture

Sept. 8 - Sept. 9, 2023

Weaving the Food Web: The People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture is the first conference of its kind in Kentucky! The People's Summit is an initiative of the Partnership for a Greater Louisville Food Council and Food Vision 2030, a coalition of organizations and individuals which Food in Neighborhoods coordinates alongside Food Literacy Project, Change Today Change Tomorrow, Community Food Louisville, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Community Farm Alliance. The Summit is hosted by Food in Neighborhoods and Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension. [Get your ticket today!](#)

Medicinal Plant Growers Event

Sept 9, 10am ET

Frankfort KY

A full day of learning about growing herbal medicine and networking together in a highly diversified urban forest setting. Bring your notebook, questions, and plants and seeds to share, trade and sell.

Morning Skillshare on Forest Propagation Techniques 10:30am-noon

Lunch with History of Dolly Graham Park roundtable 12pm-1:30

Afternoon Panel Discussion: Medicinal Plant Nursery Cooperation 2pm-3:30pm

clean up and plant distro 4-4:30

<https://www.facebook.com/events/989084742361723>

Grow Appalachia - Crop Mob

Richmond, Kentucky.

September, 12th 10-3pm ET - Register by Sept 6

Grow Appalachia is excited to support new and beginning farmers on their learning journey. A huge part of becoming an effective farmer is getting to know other farmers, and 'learning by doing' by working together on each others' farms. Lunch will be provided.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f1c60da0f34b41dda4e77843f24a8266>

Small Ruminant Field Day

September 16, 2023 - [Register by Sept 8!](#)

Lebanon KY

<https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/small-ruminant-field-day>

Seed Farming Workshops

September 20 and October 18, 2023, 3-5pm

Berea College Farm and Gardens, Berea KY

Join the Cumberland Seed Commons for this two-part workshop combining education and hands-on work harvesting, processing, and cleaning seed. Cumberland Seed Commons is an emerging group working to help build community and infrastructure for the preservation of regionally-adapted heritage and native seeds in Kentucky and Tennessee. The Berea College Farm and Gardens is one of the oldest college farms in the nation, and currently grows peanuts, cosmos, luffa, tomato, cucumber, and pepper for seed. Workshops are free; registration is required, but space is limited! [Register here](#)

2023 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School

Sept 27-28, 2023

Woodford County Extension office in Versailles, KY and at the UK C. Oran Little Research Farm.

The 2023 Fall Kentucky Beginning Grazing School's goal is to help livestock producers improve profitability with hands-on and classroom learning. Emphasis on ruminants - beef, dairy, sheep, & goats - in this event hosted by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-kentucky-beginning-grazing-school-fall-tickets-666511101647>

Heartland Homesteading Conference

Friday, Sep 29- Sunday, Oct 1, 2023

Campbellsville, KY

<https://brushfire.com/homeplaceongreenriver/conference/546211>

Growing Community Resilience with Ira Wallace and Pam Dawling

Sunday, October 1, 2023

1:00 PM 5:00 PM CT

The Nashville Food Project

Join experienced vegetable, herb, and seed growers Ira Wallace and Pam Dawling for an afternoon of workshops and a book signing. Pam Dawling will present on Year Round Vegetable Production and Ira Wallace will present on Seedkeeping, Cooperation and Community Building: Everyday Acts of Resistance in Agriculture. Snacks and refreshments will be provided by The Nashville Food Project. \$25 fee.

<https://www.tnlocalfood.org/store/p/growing-community-resilience-actual-cost-ticket>

KSU Habitat Management Symposium

October 2, 9:00 AM EDT – Oct 04, 4:30 PM EDT

KSU Research & Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln, Frankfort, KY 40601, USA

Kentucky State University (KSU) has partnered with the University of Kentucky (UK), KDFWR, KAAE, and Seiler Geospatial to conduct a 3-day symposium that will highlight natural areas practices and demonstrations, case studies and recent conservation projects, and applications of remote sensing in natural areas management.

<https://www.kaee.org/events-1/ksu-habitat-management-symposium>

KY Forage and Grassland Council Field Fay

Old Homeplace Farm, Mancheseter, KY

October 3, 2023 from 4:30-7:30 PM tour starts at 5:00 PM Rain or Shine

Tour topics will include: Multi-species grazing systems, Novel tall fescue to reduce toxicity, Native grasses for summer production, Mineland reclamation using bale feeding, Multifora rose and blackberry as high quality pasture for goats and sheep, Composting bedding and on-farm

mortalities, and so much more. [Registration information is here.](#)

Big Spring Pasture Walk

Save the Date October 19, 2023

Adolphus, KY

Third Thursday

Don't forget, the monthly Third Thursday workshops can be viewed in-person at the [Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm](#) or streamed live at www.youtube.com/kysuag/live.

Virtual Events

Organic Advisor Call Series

The Organic Agronomy Training Service's (OATS) Organic Advisor Call Series offers monthly Zoom discussions and Q&A for organic advisors with farmers and experts, facilitated by Nate Powell-Palm.

- September 6, 8 am CT - "Harvesting Two Crops: The promise of organic field peas as cash crop and fertility booster"
- October 11, 8 am CT - "On Farm Research Trials: How organic farmers can collaborate to make great science on their farm"
- November 15, 8 am CT - "Bringing The Elevator Back to Life: Organic Offtake"
- December 13, 8 am CT - "Biannual Promise: Utilizing clover to minimize tillage, build fertility, and increase crop diversity"

<https://www.organicagronomy.org/organic-advisor-call-series>

MarketReady Small Ruminant Producer Training

Sep 7, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

OR

Sept 14, 2023, 7-8:30pm

Join us for the MarketReady Small Ruminant Producer Training! The MarketReady Producer Training Program is a free (when held virtually) educational program for farmers and producers, processors, county extension agents, and anyone interested in expanding their business and products into wholesale, retail, and restaurant markets.

Each training is 90 minutes and will cover the same material, but offered at different times to hopefully provide a training time that works best for everyone. Please only RSVP for one training date. Each training will be limited to 30 participants -- so be sure to register soon! You may register up to 24 hours prior to the training date.

<https://marketready.uky.edu/events/marketready-small-ruminant-producer-training>

Farmer-to-Farmer Discussion: Ergonomics in Farming

Sept. 11, 1:45-3 PM ET

Join this farmer-to-farmer discussion within the Midwest Vegetable Growers Network on ergonomics & injury prevention in farming! Tanya Schaer from Move Right Injury Prevention and Ergonomics will be present to share supportive movements for farmers, ways to mitigate harm over time in this physically demanding occupation, & strategies for making improvements to farm tasks so that they're less taxing on your body.

In this peer-driven conversation, you'll have the chance to talk with other farmers about what tactics they've deployed on their farms to make getting things done less likely to cause pain or physical stress. Sharing about adaptive equipment that supports more ergonomic movements will be another component to our discussion. Come prepared to talk about your own challenges, successes, & resources centered around ergonomics & physical health based on your experience in farming.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mveg-farmer-to-farmer-discussion-ergonomics-in-farming-registration-699227627657>

Sequestering Carbon, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, and Building Climate Resilience through Organic Soil Health Practices

Sep 11, 2023 1:00 pm US/Eastern

All farmers face some challenges related to nutrient and livestock management that can lead to large GHG emissions, yet there is growing evidence that advanced nutrient management and adaptive grazing systems can effectively curb these emissions. This webinar will review the latest research findings on GHG mitigation and climate resilience potential of organic

systems, and will provide practical tips on how organic producers and conservation professionals can work together toward the goal of climate-neutral farming.
<https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/sequestering-carbon-reducing-greenhouse-gases-and-building-climate-resilience-through-organic-soil-health-practices>

Resources and Funding for Farmers

Applications Due for Seedleaf Urban Market Gardener Program

Program Starts September 15, 2023

Seedleaf is currently seeking applicants for its 2023 Market Gardener Program! This year long program begins on September 15th and equips a small cohort of aspiring urban food-focused entrepreneurs with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to grow commercially while supporting holistic community wellness in Lexington, Kentucky. Learn more and apply at seedleaf.org/marketgarden

Grow Appalachia is now accepting proposals for the 2024 [Garden Grants](#) program cycle!

Final proposals due by October 1st.

Grow Appalachia's Garden Grants Program: An Overview

Grow Appalachia seeks to impact food insecurity in central Appalachia by helping as many Appalachian families grow as much of their own food as possible through grantmaking to non-profits throughout the region.

Grow Appalachia partners with non-profit organizations throughout central Appalachia to administer a Grow Appalachia gardening program at the local level—delivering organic production resources and technical assistance through a hired partner site coordinator so that families truly have all they need to grow their own food.

Since 2010, Grow Appalachia has partnered with more than 60 non-profits in central Appalachia who have worked with over 6,000 families to grow 4 million pounds of organic food for themselves and their families. [Learn more by visiting their website](#)

Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program

Application Due Date: September 15, 2023

The Sheep Production & Marketing Grant Program seeks to develop solutions for practical problems on a national basis and address the needs of the entire sheep industry, while focusing on the measurable benefits for sheep producers, encouraging partnerships among other sheep industry organizations, and reducing duplication of effort among participating organizations. For more information, [view the recent press release](#) or visit the [SPMGP webpage](#).

USDA Commits Greater Conservation Assistance for Producers Transitioning to Organic Production

On April 10, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced details about its \$75 million investment in conservation assistance for producers transitioning to organic production. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is dedicating financial and technical assistance to a new organic management standard and partnering with new organic technical experts to increase staff capacity and expertise. NRCS will dedicate \$70 million to assist producers with a new organic management standard under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program is for farmers who are beginning or in the process of

transitioning to organic certification. OAK is in conversation with NRCS Kentucky and will work to communicate with farmers about the opportunity to apply for this new Organic Management Practice when it is available. Stay tuned for more info in upcoming e-newsletters and a webinar this fall! Click here to access a factsheet on certified organic production created by NRCS-Kentucky <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lomJSqOY20m0YKQWrLXblSef9e7HPcZT/view>

\$1 Billion Available to Help Farmers Invest in Renewable Energy

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is accepting applications starting on April 1 for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combating the climate crisis. For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 [Federal Register](#).

USDA Announces Sign-up for Cost-Share Assistance for On-Farm Grain Storage in Areas with Limited Commercial Capacity Due to Severe Storms

Last week USDA announced that Kentucky producers in counties affected by the December 2021 tornadoes, among other states affected by eligible disaster events, can apply for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Grain Storage Facility Assistance Program (EGSFP). An initial allocation of \$20 million in cost-share assistance is available to agricultural producers in affected counties impacted by the damage to or destruction of large commercial grain elevators as a result of natural disasters from Dec. 1, 2021, to Aug. 1, 2022. The **application period closes Dec. 29, 2023**. For more information visit the [program webpage](#) or the [EGSFP fact sheet](#). USDA also has an existing [Farm Storage Facility Loan Program](#) that can immediately provide low-interest financing for eligible producers who may not be eligible for EGSFP but are in need of on-farm storage capacity.

AMS is currently accepting applications for the Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) Program

The Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) program supports the development of new and expanded organic markets to help increase the consumption of domestic organic agricultural commodities. Applications deadline has been extended. Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on August 8, 2023. Grant applications submitted after the due date may not be considered. Information about grant eligibility is available below or contact the OMDG Team at OMDG@usda.gov.

Silvopasture and Forest Farming Support / Funds Available

The Catalyzing Agroforestry Grant Program is focused on implementing silvopastures and forest farming practices through direct support payments and will assist producers in designing appropriate projects using technical assistance and science-based planning strategies. The ultimate goal of the effort is to increase ecosystem sustainability and diversity by scaling up agroforestry practices. The Appalachian Beginning Forest Farming Coalition (ABFFC) project will provide up to \$1500/acre for silvopasture implementation and up to \$1000/quarter acre for forest farming implementation depending on project scale and scope. To enhance shared learning, producers who receive support will share successes and lessons-learned with their peers and other interested stakeholders. Minority, female, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and/or socially disadvantaged farmers are highly encouraged to apply.

<https://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/emef>

Slow Food Bluegrass Garden Grant

Deadline: ongoing

Link: <http://www.slowfoodbluegrass.org/gardens>

Slow Food Bluegrass micro-grants support groups in Kentuckiana who foster education about and access to good, clean, fair food. Special priority is given to limited resource communities and to projects that demonstrate a strong buy-in from participants. Grants range from \$500 - \$1,000 and may be awarded throughout the year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach us at slowfoodbluegrass@gmail.com.

KSU Small Scale Farm Grant

Deadline: The 1st day of every other month

Funding Amount: Up to \$5,000 for farmers, \$15,000 for groups benefiting multiple farmers

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers and Kentucky agriculture groups including farmers markets

Link: <http://kysu.edu/academics/cafsss/research-extension/small-scale-farm-grant-program/>

Overview: The KSU Small Scale Farm Grant is designed with the small operation farmer in mind. This grant application is relatively simple to complete and the funds can be used to purchase needed equipment related to the proposed project. To qualify, applicants must be producing a value-added product, be an organic farmer, and/or be an aquatic farmer. Farmers markets are often eligible. Previously approved projects have included canning equipment, a walk-in cooler, a water line to a hoop house, a root cellar, a cool-bot for vegetables, and a trailer for keeping meat cool and recently added farmer education assistance with a maximum of \$500.

Kentucky Proud Promotional Grant

Deadline: On-going

Funding Amount: Up to 10% annual gross farm income, max at \$8,000 per year; \$1 for \$1 match

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses

Link: <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/grants.html>

Overview: The Kentucky Proud Promotional Grant is a cost share program to help Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses pay for advertising and marketing expenses. The award amount is based on 10% of direct farm impact; for a farmer it would be 10% of their total farm gross sales. The applicant must be a registered member of Kentucky Proud to apply and use the Kentucky Proud logo/brand in marketing efforts paid for with program funds. Examples of fundable items include TV ads, radio ads, web expenses, hats, t-shirts, demos, sampling, labels, packaging, tradeshow, UPC, and bar codes. This is a great program that helps promote our local farms!

ON-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program

Deadline: Applications are accepted year round

Funding Amounts: 50% cost share - up to a \$10,000 incentive, plus \$150 for an approved third party energy audit

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers with a gross farm income of at least \$25,000

Link: <https://agpolicy.ky.gov/energy/Pages/default.aspx>

Overview: The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund offers an On-Farm Energy Efficiency Program to help Kentucky farmers with energy projects. These cost share funds are available to increase on farm energy efficiency and to support renewable fuel production projects. The applicant is required to have a third party energy audit completed. This program can be combined with the USDA-NRCS Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to get up to 75% of a total project cost covered.

Many thanks to [KCARD](#) for promoting many of these grant opportunities. Did you know

KCARD can also answer questions about funding programs and help you prepare an application resources



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