



## Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Welcome March! The daffodils are dotting the countryside, the pastures are greening up, shepherds are stewarding another lambing season. All of this reminds us that Spring is rapidly approaching. The OAK Team is bursting with new life as well, please head over to the [updated people page](#) on OAK's website for an introduction to OAK's new team members and the programs they are supporting.

Speaking of big hopes ahead - [OAK IS HIRING](#) a Soil Health and Conservation Specialist. Apply for this position today.

It is a great honor to announce OAK's [Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project](#) Farm Application is now open. Enrolled farms will receive technical assistance, free soil testing and incentive payments for implement practices that build soil health and grow on-farm resilience. Consider applying this month to join the first cohort of farms in this new project.

OAK Members, please scroll down to register for this week's [Virtual Annual Meeting](#). **Thursday evening's** virtual gathering will give OAK Members a chance to connect and be aware of the new opportunities and programs for the year ahead. If you are not a current OAK Member, please consider [joining or renewing](#) your lapsed Membership. As a member-driven organization, we need and appreciate each of you.

In case you missed it - OAK has added a **full-time Organic Production Specialist**. Read on for details about OAK's new capacity to provide technical assistance to our community's farmers. Beginning and experienced farmers both are encouraged to [reach out](#) and seek that guidance that will help you meet those farm goals for 2024.

Finally, please continue to support your local farmers and artisans in 2024. Today begins [2024 Kentucky Proud CSA Week](#). This is a great time to join a CSA, promote your own CSA and support a strong nourishing local food system across the Commonwealth.

Warmly,  
Robin Verson  
Membership and Communications Coordinator

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**Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project:  
Farm Application NOW OPEN**

Farmers with commercial operations, interested in soil health, climate-solutions and building on farm resilience, now is the time to apply to participate in OAK's new Climate-Smart Project.

Along with our partners, OAK is accepting farm applications to enroll acres in this new incentive program on a rolling basis, with the goal of enrolling 75 farms each year. Farms will be invited to stay with the project for multiple years and the first cohort will start this spring. Farms enrolled in the project will complete whole farm self-assessment and will then work one-on-one with a Soil health Specialist to add or expand climate-smart practices to the farm. Enrolled farms will receive incentive payments for implementing practices such as cover crops, conservation cover, pollinator habitat, nutrient management, grazing, agroforestry practices and more!

Farmers, Apply Now

#### Participating farms will:

- Measure whole-farm sustainability using OAK's Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool (FSAT).
- Receive free technical assistance to complete the tool.
- Receive free soil sampling that includes three soil health tests (\$180 value).
- Receive free surface water testing.
- Earn a \$500 incentive payment for completion of a whole-farm sustainability assessment.
- Receive free consultation about the results of the assessment and the climate-smart practices that could best improve soil health and increase the farm's whole-farm sustainability score.
- Receive a free conservation management plan recommending climate-smart practices to add or expand on the farm in the subsequent year(s).
- Earn additional incentive payment(s) for the verified implementation of recommended climate-smart practice(s) valued at up to \$3,000+ annually.

Farmers across Kentucky are invited to participate. Eligible farms can be small and diversified, large operations or anything in between. The project has a particular emphasis on enrolling historically underserved farms, small farms and farms using organic practices. Farms must have commercial operations and currently be selling farm grown or raised products. Applying does not guarantee enrollment and is the first step in the process. Enrolled farms can be certified organic, in organic transition or conventional operations interested in expanding organic and conservation practices.

**Visit the project webpage to learn more about the details on the range of climate-smart practices that are available through this project.** OAK works with farmers to collect data on reduced greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, soil health indicators, water quality, market development, animal welfare, biodiversity and more to capture and tell the full story of climate-smart practices on their farms in Kentucky.

**Project partners include** Bullhorn Creative, Four Hills Farm, Kentucky Center for Rural and Agricultural Development, Kentucky State University, Sustainable Food Alliance, The Berry Center, and The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky.

If you have questions about the project, please [email us](#), we would love to discuss the details with you.

# CLIMATE-SMART and SOIL HEALTH Project

Incentive funds for  
implemented practices

Free soil testing and  
technical assistance

Climate-smart market  
development

Field Days, workshops,  
farmer network

**FARMERS, APPLY TODAY!**



## OAK Is Hiring

The Organic Association of Kentucky is seeking candidates for one new position. This position is full-time and will be working on OAK's new Climate-Smart Project. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this role is encouraged to visit the [OAK Careers](#) web page and **apply today - position will remain open until filled.**

**The Soil Health and Conservation Specialist** will work one-on-one with farmers to deliver on-farm technical assistance to farmers enrolled in OAK's Climate-Smart Project, developing management plans based on NRCS practice standards to improve soil health with a particular focus on agroforestry and forage.

[View Job Opening and Apply Here](#)

# SOIL HEALTH AND CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Provide organic production and climate-smart  
conservation technical assistance.  
Work one-on-one with farmers.



**APPLY NOW**

Learn more at [oak-ky.org/careers](https://oak-ky.org/careers)

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## Register today for OAK's Annual Membership Meeting

OAK Members, register and join this week's Annual Membership Meeting. Team OAK will bring the party, hold the space for inspiration and you'll bring all the great conversation and contribute to the shared vision for the future. OAK's 13th Annual Membership Meeting will be online via Zoom.

Register [here](#).

There will be giveaways (yes, enticing), introductions to OAK's new staff and programs and opportunities for breakout sessions for deeper conversations!

Register for OAK's Annual Meeting





*Organic Association of Kentucky*

**ANNUAL  
FARMING  
CONFERENCE**



## Save the Date for #OAK2025!

We're delighted to announce that the OAK Conference will return to Kentucky State University's Harold R Benson Research and Demonstration Farm on January 23-25, 2025! Mark your calendars now and keep an eye on the [Conference website](#) this summer for our Call for Session Proposals, sponsorship opportunities and agenda updates for OAK's 14th Annual Farming Conference.

### 2024 Conference Sponsors, Partners & Funders



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



#NOREGRET  
Initiative



Sharing a huge THANK YOU with these generous OAK Conference Sponsors, Funders, Scholarship and Program Partners! The sessions, tours, workshops, amazing speakers, delicious food and abundant scholarships OAK offered over the three days of the conference were all possible with the thoughtful support and collaboration from these businesses and organizations.

## Fact vs. Perception

Many myths and misconceptions have been spread about the Organic Certification process. You may ask “Why would a farmer even want to go organic?” The answers are a matter of facts not perceptions. For example: It is a fact that becoming an organic farmer presents a compelling opportunity to align with consumer demand, promote sustainable practices, and potentially achieve higher profitability in the growing organic market. Here are ten factual steps to guide you as you seek to become a certified organic farmer:

### [10 STEPS TO ORGANIC CERTIFICATION](#)

If you are considering transitioning to certified organic farming. The Organic Transition Team at OAK is here to assist you and provide education and technical assistance on organic certification, organic regulations, certification cost share, organic production, agronomy, and foster relationships with referrals to extension, NRCS, business development, and marketing service professionals. All in one simple application!

Ready to apply? Learn more and get started through OAK's [Transition to Organic Partnership Program](#).

Are you interested to learn more? Contact Kenya Abraham, Organic Transition Program Manager, at [kenya@oak-ky.org](mailto:kenya@oak-ky.org).



United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
National Organic Program  
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



## Curious About Organic Certification?

We are here to answer your organic certification questions. OAK supports farmers learning about the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations and working to complete the required paperwork, including developing farm maps and creating recordkeeping systems to pursue organic certification. OAK is here to support your certification journey and to prepare you for success. If you have a few questions, give us a call or send us [an email](#). If you are ready for a farm visit and want to dive into the paperwork, fill out the short application below and we'll follow up with you to schedule a meeting. This service is provided for free to Kentucky farmers.

[Apply for Organic Certification Technical Assistance Here](#)

## Organic Production Technical Assistance

### NEW FARMING RESOURCES

[OAK has developed new production resources](#) for farmers, including a Crop Planning Tool, an Organic Record Keeping Template, a Field and Tunnel Maps Template, a Soil Test Records and Interpretation



tool, and the Kentucky Farm Resource Catalog. We are thrilled to be sharing these resources with the OAK community. Our goal is for them to be relevant and useful to Kentucky producers, and we will do our best to regularly update them as we receive feedback and suggestions. Try them out, [let us know what you think](#), and give us a shout if there are any additional tools or resources you would like to see in this list.

### GET ORGANIC PRODUCTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Have a quick production question? Need help improving or introducing a new practice to your farm? OAK's Organic Production Specialist, Sarah Geurkink, is available to respond to production-related inquiries from commercial farmers and market gardeners. Sarah can meet with farmers one-on-one via phone, virtual meeting and for on-farm consultations. Learn more and request an organic production consultation [here](#).

[Request an Organic Production Consultation](#)

To request an Organic Production Consultation, fill [out this form](#).

Just have a quick question? Send an email to Sarah Geurkink at [sarah@oak-ky.org](mailto:sarah@oak-ky.org)

*This program is supported by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF)*

## It's 2024 KY Proud CSA Week!



Get excited, March 4 - 8, 2024, is Kentucky Proud CSA Week! It's the perfect time to join the [CSA in Kentucky Facebook Group](#) and follow along for resources focused on Community Supported Agriculture



(CSA). Check out this group to search for a CSA in the [NEW partner farm guide](#), get seasonal eating and storage tips, and ask questions about subscribing to a CSA.

Join the CSA in KY Facebook Group

## OAK Offers Equity Membership Opportunities



### In case you missed it - OAK has added new membership levels!

In celebration of Kentucky's rich agricultural community, OAK invites you to join in these **free**, three-year memberships: the ***equity individual grower membership*** and ***equity farm membership***. These new membership levels offer access to OAK's member benefits, including discounted registrations to OAK's conference and participatory opportunities to mold OAK's future work.

In a step towards equity and abundant inclusion, within an industry that has and continues to disenfranchise underserved, marginalized groups, OAK now offers these free membership levels to **farmers, market gardeners, beginning farmers and aspiring growers who self-identify with one or more of the below:**

- is a member of a historically marginalized group – Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC); persons with a disability; etc.
- is experiencing food or housing insecurity
- has immigration-related expenses
- has medical expenses not covered by insurance

And never forget, **all OAK Members receive discounted registration to all OAK events.**

Join OAK via Free Equity Membership

If you would like to make a contribution, however large or small, to support OAK's Equity Membership Initiative, [please do so here](#). If you have any questions or want to learn more about OAK's membership levels, please contact [robin@oak-ky.org](mailto:robin@oak-ky.org).

## 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. OAK's farmer network includes farmers who are interested in or using regenerative practices to those whose farms have been certified organic for decades. Together, we are folks committed to creating a healthier, more nourishing food landscape in Kentucky.

If you have let your membership lapse or have never taken the plunge to join OAK, now is the time! Members will receive discounted pricing for OAK's January conference!

OAK is growing and working for an exciting future, join us. Be a part of this community, working to nourish Kentucky.

Join or Renew Your OAK Membership

## Opportunities, the Latest News & Calls to Action

### Kentucky State University Water Testing Resources



## Water Quality Testing

Kentucky State University conducts microbial water quality testing at no cost to the farmer. Labs are located in Frankfort, Whitesburg, Hodgenville, and Bowling Green.

Learn more:



<https://bit.ly/kysuwaterquality>



### Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) was awarded [\\$8.6 million through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \(USDA\) Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure \(RFSI\) program](#). The money, which will be provided through a competitive grant process, is part of an overall \$420 million the USDA committed to states to build resilience in the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for producers.

Eligible projects include those that expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of food products, for specialty crops, dairy, grains

for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

- **Infrastructure:** cost share for \$100,000 to \$3,000,000
- **Equipment only:** \$10,000 to \$100,000

Applicants can only apply for and receive funding through one of the funding categories (Infrastructure or Equipment-only). Recipients are required to contribute 50 percent of the total proposed project cost as a match to the federal funding. Some historically underserved farmers and other business may be eligible for a reduced match of 25 percent.

Applicants are **required** to have a federal “Unique Entity ID” (UEI) number, therefore interested entities without a UEI are encouraged to go ahead and make application for their UEI at SAM.gov, there is no cost to register in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

**The DEADLINE for applications is April 5, 2024.** Find all the details and the application here: <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/RFSI.html>

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## Grower resources now available!

### **Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2024-2025 (ID-36)**

Currently available online at <https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID36/ID36.pdf>

Physical copies should be available soon through your county Cooperative Extension office. Contact your county Extension agent to request a hard copy.

### **2024 Southeast U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook**

This year the handbook is only available in an online PDF format. It can be accessed to view and download at [https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2024\\_SEVEG\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2024_SEVEG_final_web.pdf)

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## Are You a Forest Farmer or Interested to Learn About Agroforestry?

The Appalachian Regional Commission recently sponsored a project through its Appalachian Regional Initiatives for Stronger Economies (ARISE) program focused on improving services and infrastructure for forest farmers. This short survey will help organizations learn about your needs and interests. Your responses will be kept confidential and used only for general reporting purposes. Take the Agroforestry survey: [Agroforestry \(oak-ky.org\)](https://agroforestry.oak-ky.org)

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## Kentucky Climate-Smart Cereal Rye Cover Crop Initiative

American Farmland Trust (AFT) is looking ahead to the 2024-2025 growing season and would like to share with you the opportunity to participate in AFT's Kentucky Climate-Smart Cereal Rye Cover Crop Initiative. Through funding provided by a USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant, the Kentucky Climate-Smart Cereal Rye Cover Crop Initiative aims to increase the adoption of winter cereal rye. Rye, as either a cover crop or double crop in rotation with corn and soybean cash crop systems, increases farm economic viability and environmental resilience. Simultaneously, rapidly scaling on-farm conservation practices achieves climate change mitigation and increases water conservation and air quality.

As part of this project, farms are eligible to receive \$550 per acre, up to \$13,750, for growing rye on up to 25 acres of land in Kentucky. Funding for this project is limited, and application decisions will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. Click [this link to apply now](#). To learn more, visit [Kentucky Climate-Smart Cereal Rye Cover Crop Initiative](#) or contact Ag Conservation Innovations Director, Brian Brandt, at [agconservation@farmland.org](mailto:agconservation@farmland.org).

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## Conservation Stewardship Program application batching date announced is March 15, 2024

NRCS announced the Kentucky batching period cut-off date for the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP). While applications are accepted at any time throughout the year, cut-off points are identified where we assess, rank, and select applications for funding. To be considered for federal fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding, the cut-off date is **March 15, 2024**. Applications received after this date will be held for consideration under the next funding cycle, which will likely be FY 2025.

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## Educational & Farming Support

### In-person Events Throughout the Region

#### Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit (KYLSS)

March 20, 2024

Lexington KY

Registration for the sixth annual Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit (KYLSS) is now open.

The [KYLSS](#) event allows participants to engage in a full day of workshops, networking and critical conversations about local food systems development.

Registration is 8 – 9 a.m. ET. Morning sessions begin at 10:45 with afternoon sessions from 2:15 – 3:45, concluding with networking reception. Registration is \$95 per person. Scholarships are available as needed.

#### Regenerating Appalachia: Sustainable Agriculture and the Changing Climate

Friday, March 22

Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, Frankfort, KY

8 am -5 pm ET

Join us for a groundbreaking and free conference dedicated to addressing the unique needs of underserved producers in Appalachia. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regenerating-appalachia-sustainable-agriculture-and-the-changing-climate-tickets-828390958657>

The **Gather to Grow multiday Forest Farming conference** will be held in Roanoke, Virginia from March 22-24, 2024 and feature learning, networking, and strategic planning programs that will shape the future of forest farming of woodland crops such as botanicals, mushrooms, and decorative products in Appalachia and beyond. Keynote speakers, working group meetings and panels, field tours, expo, exhibitors, breakout presentations, flash talks, a youth program, poster presenters, great food, socials, and a classic hotel in Appalachia are included. <https://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/2024-conference>



### **2024 Cumberland Seed Commons Spring Convening**

Berea College, from April 20-23, 2024.

Details at <http://www.cumberlandseedcommons.org/2024-csc-sc-schedule/>

### **UK Extension Irrigation Basics Hands-on Workshop, April 23 and 30, 2024**

This hands on workshop is preceded by a mandatory virtual webinar linked below.

Register here [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_OueeuQweUWBREGy](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OueeuQweUWBREGy)

### **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](http://www.youtube.com/kysuag/live).

### **March's Third Thursday Thing: Farmers Markets and Local Foods**

March 21, 10 a.m. ET. Contact [savanna.frye1@kysu.edu](mailto:savanna.frye1@kysu.edu) if you have questions.

### **First Friday, presented by The Food Connection at UK**

First Friday is a dynamic local food systems networking opportunity featuring a delicious locally sourced breakfast and a short presentation from a standout food system professional(s). We welcome on and off campus local food practitioners, advocates, and community members.

Attendance is free but we do ask that folks pre-register. <https://www.facebook.com/ukfoodconnect>

## **Virtual Events**

### **UK Extension Irrigation Basics Webinar, March 24, 2024, 12-1:30 EST**

Register here [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_OueeuQweUWBREGy](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OueeuQweUWBREGy)

### **Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation with the Use of Cover Crops as Carbon Source.**

March 21, 2024

Register now at [https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kifD92LhSKSOvj5n9uReQ](https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kifD92LhSKSOvj5n9uReQ)

This webinar will provide basic information on the opportunity to integrate the use of cover crops as a carbon source for the application of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) in organic vegetable production systems.

**FACT** has weekly, relevant free webinars.

Check out the [full schedule here](#).

**Rodale Institute** weekly, relevant free webinars.

Check out the [full schedule here](#).

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## **Resources and Funding for Farmers**

### **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/1lomJSqOY20mOYKQWrLXblSef9e7HPcZT/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](#).

### **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](mailto: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:** <https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-ac/school-of-ace/co-op/small-scale-farm-grant-program.php>

**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

**Find out more here:** <https://mtassociation.org/energy/funding-farm-energy-projects/>

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](#)

Your tax-deductible gift helps germinate, cultivate and activate a resilient food and farming network.

Donate

Join us! The organic farming network in Kentucky is growing. Together we are creating a more regenerative and organic food system.

Become an OAK Member

Organic Association of Kentucky  
PO Box 22244, Lexington, KY 40522  
e: [info@oak-ky.org](mailto:info@oak-ky.org) | p: 1.502.219.7378

Follow Along:

