



Hello ##[Name | First]##,

January, you challenged our systems with an arctic blast. February, you chimed in tame with perfect sunny days. There is nothing like a good ole Kentucky winter to keep us all on our toes! These warm winter days are definitely filling us with hopes and plans for Spring that feels so close. Spoiler alert, there is still some winter ahead.

Speaking of big hopes ahead - [OAK IS HIRING](#). The OAK Team is expanding! This is a dynamic time to consider working for the Organic Association of Kentucky. Applications remain open for two Soil Health and Conservation Specialist Positions.

It is a great honor to announce OAK's [Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project](#) Farm Enrollment Application is now open. Please look below for more details and consider applying this month.

OAK Members, please scroll down to register for the [Virtual Annual Meeting](#) and [vote](#) for the new Board of Directors. We always, especially now, want our Membership input. 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. Local, organic foods and products keep us healthy and our communities thriving. Try searching the [OAK Find-a-Farm Directory](#) to find your farmer and source locally all year long!

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

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

Farmers with commercial operations, interested in soil health, climate-solutions and building on farm resilience - OAK has a new program for you! OAK announced the launch of the Climate-Smart Project during the OAK Conference at the end of January, and the enrollment application for Kentucky farmers is now open.

Along with our partners, OAK is accepting 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 be enrolled this spring. This project can support cover crops, crop rotations, pollinator habitat, grazing plans, forage management, 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.



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.**

Soil Health and Conservation Specialist - delivers on-farm technical assistance to farmers enrolled in OAK's Climate-Smart Project and develops management plans based on NRCS practice standards to improve soil health. OAK is hiring for two of these positions.

[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



For those who attended, please share your feedback in the **Attendee Survey** you received via email and keep an eye on your inbox for **resources and recordings coming soon.**

2024 Conference Sponsors, Partners & Funders



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



#NOREGRETS
Initiative



Organic Farmer Mentorship Program Launches

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.

OAK officially began the new organic farmer mentorship program in collaboration with the Midwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP).

The program launched with a successful virtual kick-off event on January 18 with nine farmer mentors who are knowledgeable, certified organic producers and passionate about organic production. They are helping nine Kentucky farmers succeed in the organic transition process. That's 18 farmers working together in pairs, all of whom were in attendance at the 13th Annual OAK conference last week so they could meet face-to-face for some well-spent one-on-one time networking and learning together. The conference had plenty of farmers interested in transitioning to become certified organic and farmers interested in technical assistance. Farmers who were curious about organic transition filled the room for Saturday's "Organic Transition: Resources for Success" session led by the OAK Organic Transition team in partnership with the NRCS and with support from MW TOPP. Tried and true resources, as well as new resources, were also shared during the session to support the success of these transitioning producers. The attendees' end-of-session questions were invigorating; some even

followed up by submitting applications to receive technical assistance with organic certification or to learn more about the mentorship program.

"It is now time for us to build up all of our farmers in Kentucky, to help them learn organic practices, and pass this rich knowledge and opportunity hand-in-hand."

Are you interested to learn more about this new organic mentorship program? Contact Kenya Abraham, Organic Transition Program Manager, at 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 Consultations - Schedule Now!

Do you have production questions? OAK offers dedicated organic technical assistance program for Kentucky farmers who are currently using or interested in using organic practices. OAK's Organic Production Specialist, Sarah Geurkink, is available to respond to production-related inquiries and meets with farmers one-on-one via phone, virtual meetings and on-farm consultations. This service is for commercial farms and market gardens that are currently selling products or looking to scale. It is accessible to experienced or beginning farmers across certified organic and conventional crop and livestock operations and OAK Membership is not required to receive assistance.



Organic production support can include crop and cover crop planning; managing weeds, pests and diseases; soil testing assistance and interpretation; nutrient budgeting; recommendation on inputs, equipment, infrastructure and tools; high tunnel management; integrated crop livestock systems; livestock and grazing management and more.

[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

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

Join Us for 2024 KY Proud CSA Week!



KY PROUD CSA WEEK

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 4-8, 2024

Register today for OAK's Annual Membership Meeting

OAK Members, register and join the upcoming 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. OAK is teaming up with fellow community partners to promote CSA (community supported agriculture) across the state during **KY Proud CSA Week happening March 4-8, 2024**. This week, partners will share all things local, seasonal and CSA-related in the [CSA in KY Facebook Group](#).

CSA farmers, if you are offering a CSA share of some type this spring and promoting it to Kentucky consumers, consider taking part in this free virtual promotion. Learn more and register to be a participating farm. Contact OAK's Marketing and Outreach Coordinator Dee Owens at dee@oak-ky.org if you have any questions.

Register for 2024 KY Proud CSA Week



Register for OAK's Annual Meeting

OAK Members, please VOTE for the 2024 Board of Directors

Current OAK members, you are invited to vote for three Board Candidates to serve on OAK's nine-member Board of Directors. Each OAK membership comes with one voting member and a Family Farmer Membership comes with voting rights for two individuals. Contact Robin (robin@oak-ky.org) if you would like to add another person to your Family Farmer membership. Please vote by February 20th and register for the Annual Meeting when we will introduce the new OAK Board of Directors.

VOTE Here

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.

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.

- is a member of a historically marginalized group – Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC);

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!

- has immigration-related expenses

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

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

[Join or Renew Your OAK Membership](#)

[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.

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). 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 anticipated date for the application portal is February 2024. This page will be updated as the process moves forward: <https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/rfsi.html>

OAK's Organic Production Technical Assistance

Help OAK improve our [Resources and Sourcing List](#)! Enter businesses or resources into the catalog, give us feedback about something you see here, or send it to others to use or contribute to! This list will help growers:

- learn about multiple sources for supplies so they can shop smarter
- learn about specific items that are working for their peers (e.g. part numbers, item uses)
- read comments and feedback from other growers about how certain products or companies are working for them

Farmers: Do you Grow or Have Interest in Growing Organic Grains?

Kentucky farmers... do you grow organic grain crops, or are you interested in incorporating organic grains into your farming systems? If so, researchers from the University of Kentucky invite you to participate in a survey about organic grains in Kentucky and the surrounding region. The survey will help inform regional organic grain research and education and will take 10-25 minutes of your time. Your responses to the research survey are anonymous. Email lauren.brzozowski@uky.edu with questions. The survey closes on February 9th, 2024.

Take the survey: [2024 UKY Organic Grains Survey](#)

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)

Support CFA's Mattie Mack Farmer Fund* (*Previously the Kentucky Black Farmer Fund)

The Mattie Mack Farmer Fund, organized by Community Farm Alliance (CFA) supports BIPOC farmers across Kentucky. If you would like to donate to assist with this fund, please [click here!](#)

Applications for interested farmers open in Fall 2023. Those eligible to apply must satisfy all of the following:

- BIPOC-operated, family farms in Kentucky with fewer than ten employees;
- Farms who are actively part of the local food system, including produce, livestock, edible herbs, honey, maple syrup;
- Currently farming; and
- Selling products through local markets (i.e. farmers market, roadside market, Community Supported Agriculture, farm share, local restaurants, etc.)

Please contact CFA staff members Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin at tiffany@cfaky.org and Laurie White at laurie@cfaky.org for assistance.

Educational & Farming Support

In-person Events Throughout the Region

Community Farm Alliance Annual Farmers Market Gathering

February 9, 2024

Woodhill Community Center, Lexington KY

Details coming soon - watch <https://www.facebook.com/communityfarmalliance> for more information.

Mastering Your Capital Workshop

February 16th, 2024. Frankfort, KY,

This is a conference specifically for Kentucky's young, beginning, and small agricultural farmers and producers. At this conference, you'll be exposed to agricultural experts, traditional/non-traditional farming best practices, and local/regional organizations who provide an infinite number of resources which help enhance your technical skills, financial planning, and resources through multiple outlets such as:

- Various educational topics on Taxation Planning & Legal Entities, Financial Statements and Ag Financing Preparation Practices, Succession & Estate Planning, and more.
- Ability to connect with financial planners, business development managers, fellow peers, etc.
- Enhancing managerial and operational skills and developing your personal brand.
- Registration costs, breakfast, and lunch will be completely covered on behalf of anyone who registers. Please register at the link below:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/87cb62375327c899a0b2c0faadb568a7?r=use1>

If you have any questions please contact Marcus Tyler at Farm Credit Mid-America

Marcus.Tyler@fcma.com 502 420 3912

KY Forage and Grassland Council Events

2024 - Feb. 8 – Alfalfa/Stored Forage Conf, Bowling Green, KY

2024 - Feb. 19-20 - Heart of America Grazing Conf., Cincinnati, OH

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. OAK staff

Kenya Abraham and Sarah Geurkink will be at the February 15th event, go see them!

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>

- February 2nd, 2024— Brandi Button Johnson, Faye Kuosman, & Heather Graham (The Food Connection) – [Kentucky Value Chain Collaborative](#)
- March 1st, 2024— Barbara Hurt ([DendriFund](#)), Sarah Halcomb ([Walnut Grove Farm](#)), & Dr. Dave VanSanford ([UK Plant and Soil Sciences](#)) – Ohio Valley Grain Exchange

Annual OGRAIN Conference is an opportunity to learn from local organic grain growers, hear about the latest research, and connect with other organic, transitioning-to-organic, or inquisitive-about-organic grain growers and end-users. Save the date for February 2-3, 2024 in Madison, WI!

[see the agenda here](#) and [REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE](#)

2024 Organic Grain Conference & Trade Show

February 7-8, 2024 at the i-Hotel in Champaign, IL. <https://www.thelandconnection.org/attend/>

KY Black Farmers Conference

March 1-2, 2024

Lexington KY

Register here: https://secure.everyaction.com/CkKiFAhT_U-vhNi1FhPOuQ2

Sponsorship Opportunities here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/E9UEjJLGWE6qe-PM2QABFg2>

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.

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>

Virtual Events

Spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) has emerged as a devastating pest of small and stone fruits worldwide.

February 7, 2024

This eOrganic webinar, by a team of researchers from around the U.S. who are working together on a NIFA OREI project to find organic management strategies for SWD, will focus on recent efforts to release the classical biological control agent *Ganaspis brasiliensis* at organic sites with information from Dr. Jana Lee (USDA ARS), Dr. Kent Daane (UC Berkeley), Dr. Philip Fanning (UMaine) and more. Register now at https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_efBnBYi8QDSzu2NOGopQBg

Webinar: The Power of Adaptive Grazing Featuring Fernando Falomir

Feb 8, 2024 08:00 PM ET

This webinar from UnderstandingAG will demonstrate how cattle can be used as an effective tool to restore degraded landscapes and improve overall profitability.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OYTcSjznQuC2lf9tzs5ETA#/registration

Webinar - Establishing Hardwood Silvopasture Systems When Starting From Pastures or Woodlands

Feb 13, 2024 1:00 pm US/Eastern

Establishing silvopasture systems starts with existing forest or woodlands or from open fields or pastures. In this webinar, presenters will discuss how and what to plant to establish a silvopasture system on an existing field or pasture. In addition, listen to a producer using silvopasture discuss their experiences on the ground. [learn more here...](#)

Webinar - From Forage to Livestock: Managing Animals in a Silvopasture system

Feb 20, 2024 1:00 pm US/Eastern

Animals in silvopasture systems are managed a little differently than traditional fields. In this webinar, presenters will discuss different aspects of managing animals in a silvopasture system from determining which animals, how much land they need, to introducing them to the silvopasture [learn more here...](#)

Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation: Selecting the Right Carbon Source and Application Rate.

February 20, 2024 11AM Pacific, 12PM Mountain, 1PM Central, 2PM Eastern Time.

Register now at https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xtK1Lyl2Sn-jL1tpSLTqVg#/registration

This webinar will provide the principles and practical insights on how to select suitable sources of carbon (organic amendment) and their application rate to implement Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) as a biological solution for the management of soilborne pests and pathogens affecting specialty crops.

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

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](#).

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.

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.

Your tax-deductible gift helps germinate, cultivate and activate a resilient food and farming network. 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? **Join us! The organic farming network in Kentucky is growing. Together we are creating a more regenerative and organic food system.**

Donate

Become an OAK Member

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

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