



## Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Welcome April. Welcome Spring.

Last month Brooke Gentile, OAK's executive director, and Bryce Baumann, OAK member farmer and Board Member, traveled to Washington DC to participate in the Organic Farmers Association (OFA) fly-in advocacy days. Read all about their trip, meeting highlights with USDA leadership and KY representatives, along with updates on appropriations and the Farm Bill [below](#).

April is a time of new growth. Pastures are greening and spring crops remind us of what is to come. OAK's new staff and programming are also bursting to life. OAK's [Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project](#) is accepting farm enrollment applications! Farmers – get paid to implement conservation practices, build soil health and grow on-farm resilience. Read on for more details and apply now.

The unfurling of OAK's [TOPP Mentorship Program](#) is inspiring many this season. With the first cohort of mentor/mentee pairs already working together, OAK currently has a waiting list of transitioning farmers who are in need of mentorship. This is a paid mentorship opportunity. All crop and livestock producers are welcome and encouraged to apply now. **Only you, the seasoned organic farmer can make a difference by inspiring others as an Organic Mentor!**

OAK's new **Organic Production Specialist, Sarah Geurkink**, has been in the weeds providing technical assistance to our community's farmers. Beginning and experienced farmers both are encouraged to [reach out](#) for one-on-one technical assistance. Let OAK help you meet those farm goals for 2024. **Also, be sure to check out OAK's newly developed [production resources](#):**

- a Crop Planning Tool
- a Field and Tunnel Maps Template
- an Organic Record Keeping Template
- a Soil Test Records and Interpretation Tool
- a Kentucky Farm Resource Catalog

Are you interested in joining the OAK Team? Do you know the special someone who has expertise in forage and agroforestry systems? [OAK IS HIRING](#) a Soil Health and Conservation Specialist. Learn more, share the opportunity and apply for this position today.

As the fresh spring greens appear on our plates and we nibble on the crisp spiciness of the first radishes, I know I share enthusiasm with each of you as we welcome Spring. The natural world around us bursts to life following winter's rest. With deep gratitude for Kentucky farmers who are hard at work now readying for the busiest of times that lie ahead.

Warmly,

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## Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project: FARMERS, APPLY NOW!

OAK's Climate-Smart and Soil Health Project is accepting farm enrollment applications! Farmers – get paid to implement conservation practices, build soil health and grow on-farm resilience.

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 underserved farmers, small farms and farms using organic practices. Farms must have commercial operations and currently be selling farm grown or raised products that are one or more of these commodities: produce; lamb/sheep; beef; corn, soybeans or small grains; hemp; or agroforestry products. Farms can be certified organic, in organic transition or conventional operations interested in expanding organic and conservation practices. Applying does not guarantee enrollment and is the first step in the process.

Farmers, Apply Now

Participating farms will earn a \$500 incentive payment for completion of a whole-farm sustainability assessment and can earn additional incentive payment for verified implementation of recommended climate-smart practice(s) valued at \$3,000 annually.

OAK is enrolling farms now and practices in year one of the project are included below. A variety of perennial planting practices will be available in year two and beyond!

- conservation cover
- conservation crop rotation
- cover crop
- mulching
- nutrient management
- prescribed grazing
- residue and tillage management
- stripcropping

Enrolled farmers receive free on-farm technical assistance; free soil sampling and surface water testing; free consultations about the results of their farm's sustainability assessment; a free conservation management plan recommending climate-smart practices to add or expand on the farm in the subsequent year(s); and much more.

Questions about the project? [Email, give us a call!](#) We would love to discuss the details with you.



# CLIMATE-SMART and SOIL HEALTH Project

**Enrolled farms have access to technical assistance and incentive payments for implemented climate-smart practices.**

## PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES INCLUDE:

- conservation cover
- conservation crop rotation
- cover crop
- residue and tillage management
- mulching
- prescribed grazing
- stripcropping
- nutrient management
- windbreak or shelterbelt
- forest farming
- silvopasture
- field border
- wildlife habitat planting
- hedgerow planting
- pasture and hay planting
- vegetative barrier
- herbaceous wind barriers
- tree or shrub establishment

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. **Hiring a Soil and Conservation Specialist with a Focus on Forage and Agroforestry** 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.

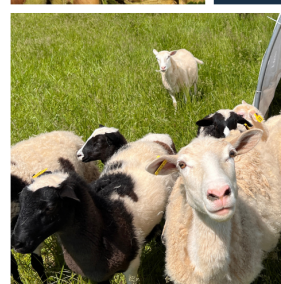
The **Soil Health and Conservation Specialist** will work one-on-one with farmers to deliver on-farm technical assistance to farmers enrolled in OAK's Climate-Smart Project, developing management plans based on NRCS practice standards to improve soil health with a particular focus on agroforestry and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



# OAK IS HIRING

**Soil and  
Conservation  
Specialist**  
*Forage and Agroforestry*

**APPLY NOW**



[View Job Opening and Apply](#)

## Organic Advocacy Dispatch from OAK's Executive Director

In early March, Brooke Gentile, OAK's executive director, and Bryce Baumann, OAK member farmer and Board Member, traveled to Washington DC to participate in the [Organic Farmers Association](#) (OFA) fly-in advocacy days. In a Farm Bill year, the stakes are high, and they were grateful for the opportunity to join in the conversations with OFA's long-time advocates and emphasize the needs of farmers in OAK's network. Sharing stories with elected representatives and USDA leadership about what works for small farms and what is needed to strengthen the organic industry was stimulating and rewarding. Read on to learn about Brooke and Bryce's meetings with Jennifer Lester-Moffitt, United States Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Jennifer Tucker, Deputy Director of the National Organic Program; the Senate Agriculture Committee; House Agriculture Committee; and Kentucky representatives.

[Read Brooke's Full Report Back from D.C.](#)



## Conservation Outreach

OAK is delighted to announce a new program that will strengthen work addressing local natural resource concerns, promoting the adoption of climate-smart conservation and encouraging small-scale and urban agriculture. Thanks to a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), OAK will deliver outreach and education programming to increase awareness of and participation in NRCS programs, services and leadership opportunities in agriculture and natural resource conservation among Kentucky's small farms and historically OAK welcomes Mad Marchal to steward this work.



Mad brings several years of experience working on organic production farms, community garden management and varied positions within non-profit agriculture. Mad worked alongside NRCS to support farmers throughout Jefferson County in implementing conservation practices and receiving financial assistance, and they also received their own support for crop production through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).\* In their role at OAK, Mad will continue to educate and support Kentucky farmers in regenerative practices that center the whole farm ecosystem. They are passionate about land tenure for all and uphold that strengthening organic farms and local food systems accesses our collective freedom.

Reach out to Mad at [mad@oak-ky.org](mailto:mad@oak-ky.org) or connect with them at the April 24 webinar on EQIP (details below) or to inquire about other NRCS programs for your operation. *\*The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.*

### **Webinar: Conservation, Connection and Capital: Bringing EQIP Support to Your Farm April 24, 10-11 am ET**

- Interested in adding conservation to your farm operation?
- Ready to incorporate technical and financial assistance that fits your farm goals?
- Curious what the acronyms NRCS, EQIP and OAK are - and how they can help?

Tune in on Wednesday, April 24, for this webinar to guide farmers through all they need to know to apply for and receive Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) support and funding. This one-hour webinar will provide participants with sure-footed next steps and connections with people who can help, from identifying conservation concerns to completing a successful contract. Learn from OAK staff members, a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) specialist and an experienced farmer who will share their farm story of the EQIP application and funding process and its on-farm benefits.

Save the Date, Registration to OPEN on April 10th

## **#OAK2024 Recordings and Save the Date for #OAK2025!**

Reminder: Attendees of OAK's 2024 Conference can view session recordings and access speaker presentations and resources on the newly-updated 2024 Conference Content website. *Please note that access to the content requires login to your OAK profile and is limited to those who were registered for the January event.* Thank you again to the #OAK2024 speakers, participants, volunteers

and sponsors for an impactful shared learning experience. The OAK staff and Conference committee look forward to our 14th Annual Conference in Frankfort, KY, on January 23-25, 2025!

## Organic Mentorship Program Highlight

**“The mediocre mentor tells. The good mentor explains. The superior mentor demonstrates. The greatest mentors inspire!”** *Lucia Ballas Traynor*

“March Magic” is in full swing for the TOPP Organic Mentorship Program! Program manager Kenya Abraham embarked on a journey to south-central KY for a check-in visit with Mentee farmers: Elizabeth Tobey and Brian Geier of Bundle Sticks Farm, Lanesville IN - while being hosted at the farm of their organic Mentor: Robin Verson of Hill & Hollow Farm, Edmonton KY.

The Mentees came prepared with an array of questions. The mentor was informative, and her work demonstrations were inspiring. The mentorship visit did not fall short on the day's logistics which included an amazing farm tour and lunch with Cher and Eric Smith at Bugtussle Farm in Gamaliel, KY. Lambing season may feel like March Madness on some sheep operations, but what Brian and Elizabeth experienced at both their organic mentor's sheep farm operation (Hill & Hollow Farm) and on Bugtussle farm was purely March Magic!

The organic transition program manager noted that the TOPP mentor (Robin Verson) was able to coordinate a visit that allotted time to put the transitioning farmers' needs and situations in perspective, offered feedback, and served as a sounding board. She identified others whose brains the mentees might pick with activities they could engage in to help the mentees identify small ways to position their work, meet their goals, and gave resources that were helpful, including getting down to paperwork and drafting an Organic System Plan!



From left: Kenya, Brian, Elizabeth, Eric, Cher and Robin.

**Only you, the seasoned organic farmer can make a difference**

by inspiring others as an Organic Mentor!

OAK currently has a waiting list of transitioning farmers who are in need of mentorship. This is a paid mentorship opportunity, including paid training, mentorship time, and travel time. All crop and livestock producers are welcome and encouraged to apply now. Click here to learn more about the [TOPP Mentorship Program](#).



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](#)

## Get Organic Production Technical Assistance From OAK

OAK's Organic Production Specialist is available to help Kentucky farmers with their organic farming goals and challenges. Consultation services include relevant referrals to extension and organizational partners, crop and system planning, input sourcing ideas, and more. Organic production consultations can be done by phone, virtually or on farm. The program is for commercial farmers that are certified organic, transitioning, or wanting to implement organic practices on their farm. Learn more, and ask a quick question or request an organic production consultation today!

OAK has developed new production resources for farmers, including:

- a Crop Planning Tool
- a Field and Tunnel Maps Template
- an Organic Record Keeping Template
- a Soil Test Records and Interpretation Tool
- a Kentucky Farm Resource Catalog

Find them at [oak-ky.org/oak-resources](https://oak-ky.org/oak-resources).

OAK's goal is for these resources to be relevant and useful to Kentucky producers. Let us know if you have any feedback or if there are any additional tools or resources you would like to see in this list. If you have any questions about how to use and adapt these resources for your operation, email OAK's production specialist ([sarah@oak-ky.org](mailto:sarah@oak-ky.org)).

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)*

## CSA Direct Marketing Summit is on April 6-8, 2024!



Are you a CSA grower, producer, agriculture educator or professional? Join us for the fourth annual CSA Direct Marketing Summit this April! This free virtual event will focus on CSA marketing, pricing, trends, and more.

The 2024 CSA Direct Marketing Summit is organized by the Kentucky Horticulture Council, Center for Crop Diversification, OAK and Kentucky Farm Share Coalition, Kentucky Proud, and KCARD. Reach out to Bethany at [bethany@kyhortcouncil.org](mailto:bethany@kyhortcouncil.org) with any questions.

Learn More & Register

## 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

**Not a OAK Member? You Really Should Be!**  
If you would like to make a contribution, however large or small, to support OAK's Equity Membership Initiative, [please do so here](#). **Join OAK Today!** 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).

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

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## LAST CALL for RFSI funding - deadline April 5!!!!!! KENTUCKY'S RFSI PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY!

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](#).

**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://www.oak-ky.org/agroforestry)

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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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## Educational & Farming Support

### In-person Events Throughout the Region

#### 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).

#### First Friday, presented by The Food Connection at UK, April 5, 2024

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). This April Friday, April 5th will welcome Dr. Christine Smith, Seedleaf, as guest facilitator along with an esteemed panel of Jane Evans and Amir Hussein, Common Earth Gardens, and Fatima Jackson, Action Jackson Farm as they discuss New American Farmers. On and off campus local food practitioners, advocates, and community members are encouraged to attend. Free and requested that folks pre-register. <https://www.facebook.com/ukfoodconnect>

# Virtual Events

## CSA Direct Marketing Summit

April 6-8, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/events/751150610381881/751150617048547/>

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 | p: 1.502.219.7378

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