



Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Welcome May - the temperatures are rising and the main growing season is upon us. We spend more time outdoors and our plates are full of locally sourced foods.

May is go time around Kentucky. The CSA season begins and animals graze on fully green pastures. 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 get on-farm resilience. Read on for more details and apply now.

OAK's **Farmer Field Day** calendar is unfurling with the season and the OAK Team couldn't be more pleased with the learning opportunities that lie ahead. Registration is OPEN now for June and July Field Days with more, so much more, to come!

While January seems long ago, OAK's Farmer Education Team is thrilled to begin circulating recordings of the deep learning we shared during OAK's 2024 Conference in Frankfort. Read on to see which **conference session recordings** have been released, and stay tuned for more monthly releases.

OAK's new **Organic Production Specialist, Sarah Geurkink**, has been in the weeds providing technical assistance to our community's farmers. Both beginning and experienced farmers 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 our region's CSA farmers start packing those first shares and seasonal Farmers Markets open up in our communities, I share springtime enthusiasm with each of you as we welcome the month of May. With deep gratitude for Kentucky farmers who are hard at work now readying for the busiest of times that lie ahead, I hope your bellies are full of fresh, local strawberries.

Warmly,

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## OAK's USDA Climate-Smart Project: FARMERS, APPLY NOW!

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

[Learn More and Apply](#)

### **BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND ENROLLED ACRES INCLUDE:**

- Incentive payments for implement climate-smart practices: up to \$3,000 per year
- Training and technical assistance for climate-smart commodity production and practices
- Global Farm Metric - Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool: \$500 incentive payment for completion
- Free advanced soil testing: \$180 value
- Additional on-farm sampling, including free Brix and Dissolved Oxygen testing
- Participation in Field Days and Workshops
- Free and reduced-price perennial plant stock
- Access to new and expanded markets for climate-smart commodities
- Expansion of on-farm resilience to climate and weather events
- Improvements in nutrient cycling
- Reduced need for off-farm inputs

Farms must have commercial operations and currently sell 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. Each enrolled farm must have a Farm Serial Number (FSN) through the USDA Farm Services Agency or be willing to work with their local FSA office to acquire an FSN. Applying does not guarantee enrollment and is the first step in the process.

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



# Climate-Smart Project BENEFITS TO FARMERS



IMPROVES SOIL HEALTH AND SEQUESTERED CARBON



INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES



MORE PRODUCTIVE LAND



INCREASED MARKET PRICE PREMIUMS AND PROFITS



ADDITIONAL AND EXPANDED MARKETS



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



ADVANCED SOIL TESTING



GLOBAL FARM METRIC - FARM SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL



IMPROVED FARM RESILIENCE



INCREASED YIELDS



...AND MORE!



Farmers, Apply Now!

## New Climate-Smart Project Staff

Leigh serves as the Climate and Conservation Project Manager and stewards the operations and implementation of the Climate-Smart Project. She will coordinate partner activities, work with farmers through the enrollment process, track project impacts and support required reporting. Leigh brings years of nonprofit project management and compliance, systems administration and a passion for climate solutions to the team. Some of her favorite things include books, beaches, baking, tulips, tennis, traveling, alteration, laughter and mountains.

technical assistance.

Marissa is the Soil Health and Conservation Specialist and works one-on-one with farmers enrolled in the Climate-Smart Project to make management plans and support producers choosing to implement conservation practices on their farms. She is a Certified Crop Advisor and brings years of experience working on farms from Washington to New York and stewarding research with land grant universities. She feels so lucky to have a job where many days consist of walking fields, talking to farmers and digging in the soil.



## Farmer Profile: Bryce Baumann of Lazy Eight Stock Farm



At age 12, Bryce Baumann started his farming career selling sweet corn at the local farmers market. In high school, he built an entrepreneurial project growing a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre of strawberries. Although he left the family farm for college in Georgia - earning a degree in Environmental Science, Bryce's passion for farming brought him back home, where he and his wife, Anna, now farm and raise their two kids alongside Bryce's parents, Lothar and Carla Baumann. The family's [Lazy Eight Stock Farm](#) is a 420-acre certified organic farm located on the banks of Paint Lick Creek in Madison and Garrard counties. Bryce's early years in full-time farming were diversified and complex, including farmers market sales, a cattle business and a poultry operation: broiler chickens, turkeys and laying hens. In 2009, Bryce scaled up the family farm, with the purchase of an adjoining farm, to grow the business as his own family was growing.

Unfortunately, disease struck the Lazy Eight cattle herd, devastating the feeder cattle business and the family's farming income. Bryce decided it was time to reevaluate the farming plan. Working with the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) to develop a business plan, Bryce shifted Lazy Eight's production to a vegetable focus, starting a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and transitioning the farm to USDA Certified Organic in 2012.

A founding member of the [Kentucky Farm Share Coalition](#) (KYFSC) since 2018, Bryce and Lazy Eight have helped to build this farmer-led initiative promoting organic CSA throughout Kentucky. Lazy Eight's CSA currently serves hundreds of families throughout central Kentucky with vegetables, herbs, fruits and cut flowers. In recent years, Lazy Eight has expanded into the production of certified organic plant starts for the local community and interested farmers. Learn more about Lazy Eight Stock Farm on [their website](#) and follow them at [@LazyEightStockFarm](#).

Don't miss the opportunity to learn from Bryce's decades of farming experience at his upcoming Farmer Field Day - Register via the button below!

[Register Here for June's Field Day at Lazy Eight Stock Farm](#)

## Upcoming Field Day: Reduced Tillage, Cover Crops, and Crop Rotations on an Organic Vegetable Farm

June 4, 2024 -- 1-4 pm ET.

Dedicated to farming practices that are rooted in biological systems, Bryce Baumann and his Lazy Eight Stock Farm crew tend to more than 25 acres of certified organic vegetables using a standardized permanent bed system, intentional crop rotation, cover crops, minimal tillage and reduction of plastic mulch. Join this OAK Farmer Field Day to visit Lazy Eight's fields in multiple successions of late spring crops, observe demonstrations of reduced tillage and vegetable intercropping, explore cultivation equipment, learn about field production of cut flowers and view their ½-acre covered crop production\*. Hear from Bryce, OAK staff and NRCS representatives how Lazy Eight is implementing conservation practices within their organic vegetable production that build soil health, increase conservation of the farm's natural resources, improve their climate resilience and earn financial assistance to sustain the farm and its community for future generations. As a Kentucky farm enrolled in OAK's USDA-supported Climate-Smart Project, Lazy Eight Stock Farm has committed to implementing climate-smart practices and assessing whole-farm sustainability. Learn more about OAK's project at <https://www.oak-ky.org/climate-smart-project>. \*Weather-dependent activities include a glimpse into field production of cut flowers and a chance to view Lazy Eight's ½-acre covered crop production.

*Support for this project comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities under agreement number NR233A750004G092.*



If you are interested in mingling with folks who are committed to creating a healthier, more nourishing food landscape, then plan to join OAK Staff and community members for an [informal social gathering](#) at Nightjar 436 Chestnut St, Berea, KY 40403. It will be a perfect time to meet old friends and make new connections. Save the date and plan to meet us for an evening of fun and friendship.

There is no charge to attend, and food or drink is available for purchase. Check out Nightjar's offerings here: <https://www.436chestnut.com/>.

Already registered for OAK's FARM FIELD DAY that day at [Lazy Eight Stock Farm](#) in Paint Lick, KY? Plan to pop over and join us for a drink or dinner or just plain fun [@nightjarbera](#) Berea is less than 15 minutes away!

**June-July Farmer Field Days are live - Register Today!**

It's Field Day season - one of our favorite times of the year! Join us on working farms to meet up with farmers and agricultural professionals to see organic systems in action. Share your successes and challenges with peers and connect with helpful resource providers. OAK's Farmer Field Days, webinars and workshops are open to farmers, ag professionals and local food system advocates. OAK welcomes farmers from all types and scales of farms - large and small scale, organic and conventional, urban and rural. Keep up-to-date with the details of every farmer-to-farmer learning event in each month's Farmer Field Notes - or register today on our website!

[Register Today for Farmer Field Days](#)

## Webinar Wrap-up: Conservation, Connection and Capital - Bringing EQIP to Support Your Farm

[View Event Recording, Summary and Resources](#)

On April 24, 2024 OAK hosted a live webinar that brought together Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel, OAK staff and Kentucky farmers, allowing multiple perspectives and voices to share NRCS regulations and provide a glimpse into the real-life experience of applying for and participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

### OAK 2024 Conference Recordings

If you missed the event- don't fret! You can learn more about EQIP eligibility, financial assistance and OAK's conservation offerings through the inspiring and informative sessions from the 13th Annual Farming Conference this past January. The following recordings are currently released for public viewing on [OAK's website](#):

- Cultivating Community, Wellness and Purpose Through Food and Farming (Keynote)
- No-Till Cover Cropping on a Small to Medium Scale (Pre-Conference Workshop)
- Food Insecurity and Access in Kentucky: Panel Discussion
- Digging into Sustainability Data with Farmers: Lessons from the Field for Incentivizing Climate-Smart Practices
- Organic Transition: Resources for Success
- Forest Farming 101

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

[View Select OAK 2024 Conference Recordings](#)

## Organic Production Technical Assistance Highlight:

Farmer Morris Smith of Riverview Farm has been growing garlic in West Virginia for a little more than three decades. In the fall of 2023, Morris broke ground on a second production farm in Lee County, Kentucky that he plans to certify as organic. Riverview Farm is scaling up to produce organic culinary and seed garlic at scale for wholesale marketing. This year's harvest will be primarily used as seed in the fall.

To help with the process, Morris reached out for technical assistance in fertility, cover cropping and crop rotation planning from OAK's Organic Production Specialist (Sarah), and in certification from

OAK's Organic Transition Specialist (Holly). Along with big picture planning, Morris has had quick questions and referral needs that OAK has been able to meet simply through phone or text. Morris is an experienced farmer who is new to organic production, and the OAK team has enjoyed learning from and working with him this year.

Request your production consultation today! OAK's Organic Production Specialist can answer quick questions, make referrals to relevant specialists or programs, help with sourcing inputs or work with you on crop or system plans. To learn more, visit [oak-ky.org/production-consultation](https://oak-ky.org/production-consultation) or email [sarah@oak-ky.org](mailto:sarah@oak-ky.org).



Photo courtesy of Morris Smith

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## National Organic Standards Board Meeting

OAK's Organic Transition Mentorship Program was highlighted as part of the Midwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) Presentation at the April 2024 **National Organic Standards Board Meeting**.

OAK's Organic Transition Program Manager, Kenya Abraham, spoke about the vital role that mentorship plays in organic transition and carried OAK's 2024 organic mentorship cohort of 12 pairs to the meeting with her through storytelling. Kenya gave an incredible account of the transition process for Kentucky's mentee farmers, including the many successes, challenges and hardships that they're experiencing and the amount of support the organic mentor farmers and

the OAK transitioning team provide to the mentees. Kenya also spoke to the issues of equity in Kentucky's organic agriculture space for BIPOC farmers and how mentorship can pave the way for equity through workforce development in the organic industry.



The NOSB typically meets twice per year in various locations around the United States. Prior to meetings, the NOSB reviews written public comments and listens to oral public comments. During meetings, the NOSB discusses agenda items, and then votes on recommendations to the Secretary in a public forum. Detailed meeting information, including agendas, locations, proposals and public comments, will be posted below as it becomes available. For information on previous meetings, visit the [NOSB meetings page](#).



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](#)



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## 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)*

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# FARM TO FORK

(SHORTEST FOOD CHAIN EVER)

OAK Offers Equity Membership Opportunities

FIND A  
FARM NEAR



through radio ads and a paid social campaign this May.

Reminder, if you have a profile on the directory, now is a great time to make sure your information is up to date. Don't have a page? Email [robin@oak-ky.org](mailto:robin@oak-ky.org) to learn more!

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

### 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)

### 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)

## 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

#### **Develop Hands-On SKILLS at Salamander Springs Workshop with Susana Lein Monthly Workshops, June - September, 2024 - Berea, KY**

These on-farm workshops are for anyone wanting to get firsthand experience with permaculture principles and methods on the ground, will include hands-on practicums and intensive education in principles, methods and materials, timing, hard lessons learned...not to be missed! [Learn more and register here](#).

#### **High Tunnel Field Day May 7, 2024, 10:00 am, Breathitt County Extension Office**

Meet at the Breathitt County Extension Office at 9:30 for transportation to Howard Farms, where Dr. Rachel Rudolph will present. Must watch the videos at [this link](#) prior to the field day. Call 606-666-8812 to register.

#### **Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Speed Dating Events**

May 3rd Madison County Public Library 1-4 PM

May 24th VIRTUAL OPTION

May 31st TBD West KY

Join KSU, KY Black Farmers Association, and CFA to learn about funding opportunities through the multiple climate smart opportunities at these upcoming events! There are three opportunities to meet the partners of the Climate Smart projects that are impacting Kentucky farmers and growers. Accelerating Appalachia, [Fischer Farms Natural Foods](#), Grasslands Partnership, [Laura's Mercantile](#), and the [Organic Association of Kentucky](#) will bring their projects qualifications and attractive funding opportunities to this matchmaking experience. Interested farmers will walk away with an interest and understanding of a project that fits their farm or farm business.

#### **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).

# Virtual Events

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

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

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](mailto:info@oak-ky.org) | p: 1.502.219.7378

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