



Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

OAK Field Notes - August 2025



Meet the Farmers: Jennifer and Jan Maynard

For Jennifer and Jan Maynard, farming is not just a business venture; it's a way of life rooted in sustainability, community and a love for the land. Four years into their farming life in Mercer County, the roots of [4js Family Farm](#) extend to Jennifer's homestead childhood in Alaska and Jan's Illinois upbringing. The Maynards share an interest in environmental stewardship and living close to the land. They raised their two children while managing a large-scale vegetable farm and building a whole-food, medically-tailored prepared meal business in New Jersey.

In 2021, the Maynard family relocated to Harrodsburg and started [4js Family Farm](#), a vibrant, diversified farmstead growing certified organic vegetables, cut flowers and hay. OAK is delighted to partner with the Maynard family for an August 26, 2025, Field Day: *Year-Round Earnings, Creative Diversification and Organic Certification*.

Get to know Jennifer and Jan



Apply Now for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Assistance

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky closes its **annual EQIP application window every fall**. The 2025 deadline has not yet been announced but will be here before we know it! Whether you have had an EQIP contract in the past, or would like to submit your first application, now is a great time to revisit your goals, connect with NRCS and assemble your paperwork.

EQIP provides cost-share and technical assistance for practices applied to working lands (cropland, orchard, pasture, etc.) that address specific natural resource concerns. These include regenerative, soil health-enhancing practices such as Cover Crops, No-till and Reduced Tillage, Nutrient Management and Grazing Management. These land practices can enhance the soil, climate, water quality and economic outcomes for organic or regenerative farming operations.

To learn more reach out to a [local NRCS office](#) or connect with OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator, Mad Marchal. at mad@oak-ky.org.

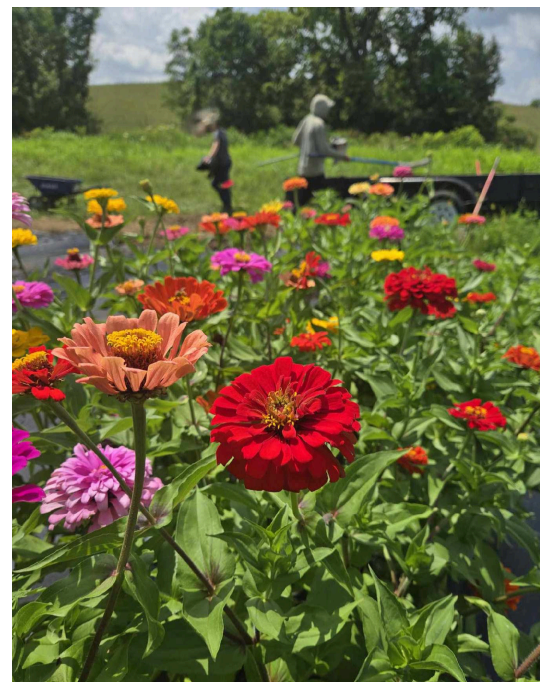
Grow Your Conservation Efforts Today

August 26 Field Day at 4Js Family Farm

Join us for the *Year-Round Earnings, Creative Diversification and Organic Certification* in Mercer County.

- Delve into production of one acre of certified organic vegetables and cut flowers
- Tour the plant germination room and shipping-container cold storage/pack shed
- Learn 4Js' recordkeeping and best practice efficiencies for organic certification
- Hear the farm's marketing strategies for CSA, farmers markets, value-added products and creative market development

The USDA's [*Midwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program*](#) provided support for this event, as did Grow Appalachia and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Learn More and Register Today

Celebrating Seasonal Foods at the Kentucky State Fair



Join us on Friday August 22 for a cooking demo from 2:00 - 3:15pm at the 2025 Kentucky State Fair in Louisville!

OAK is partnering with the Kentucky Horticulture Council to showcase a few exciting seasonal recipes featuring fresh vegetables from Kentucky farms. This live cooking demonstration will provide practical tips for storing and preparing produce commonly found in a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share.

Join us to learn more about making the most of in-season ingredients, celebrate Kentucky-grown foods and enjoy a sample while you're at it!

Kentucky Mechanical Weed Control Field Day

The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) and the University of Kentucky's Center for Crop Diversification (UK CCD) are hosting a [Mechanical Weed Control Field Day](#) at the UK Horticulture Farm in Lexington on September 23rd.

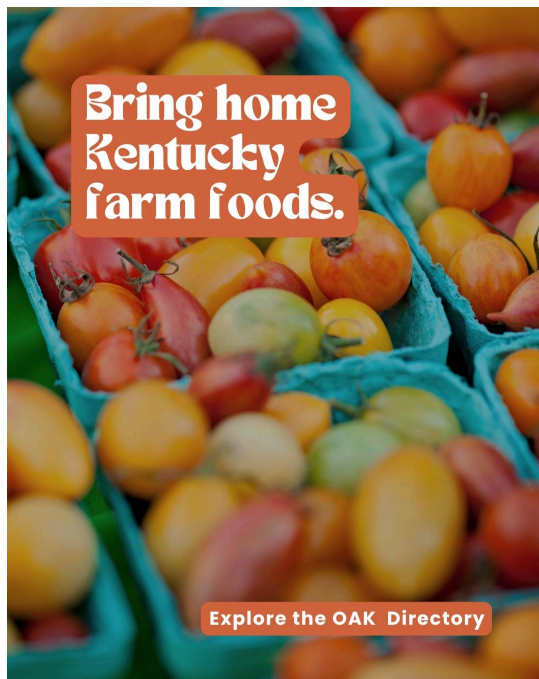
The day will feature educational sessions, field demonstrations and a trade show. Participants will see walk-behind and tractor-mounted cultivation tools and have ample opportunity to observe equipment up close and running, ask questions, compare options and try various tools themselves.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to level up your knowledge about weed control systems and available tools! [Register now](#)



Register Today

Celebrate Seasonal Foods this August and Explore the OAK Directory



The first week of August marks National Farmers Market Week, running from August 3-9, 2025!

There's no better time to celebrate than by discovering dedicated and amazing farms in your area using the OAK Find-A-Farm Directory. This user-friendly resource makes it easy to find fresh products of all kinds in your community and at nearby markets.

Simply search by zip code, product type or county to explore OAK member farms and where you can shop their seasonal offerings, whether at farmers markets or through other convenient options. **Find a Kentucky farm and market today:** <https://directory.oak-ky.org/>.

Reflections from Old Homeplace Farm Field Day

Maggie and Will Bowling are building their diversified family farm upon hard work, smart systems, creative marketing and good old-fashioned trial-and-error.

Through innovation and adaptation, Maggie and Will are expanding the product offerings and customer base of [Old Homeplace Farm](#), while learning from the land and the lived experiences of ten years farming together.

The Bowlings led a tour of their Clay County farm during OAK's late June Field Day, sharing the growth of their vegetable Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and pastured livestock operation with improved pastures and perennial plantings. Learn more at ... <https://www.oak-ky.org/field-days>



Latest News

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB) into law.

This budget reconciliation bill slashes programs like SNAP and Medicaid to fund tax breaks for the wealthy, while diverting billions to expand subsidies for the largest industrial farms. Small-scale farmers and rural communities are left behind. OBBB also delays progress on a new Farm Bill, forcing Congress to pass an extension of the 2018 Farm Bill by September 30 (or December 31 at the latest) to avoid program lapse and disruptions across food and farm systems.

[Read NSAC's full analysis of OBBB and what it means for food and farm policy.](#)

National Resource Guide for Producers

“Every day, decisions are made in Washington, D.C. that have profound consequences for how we grow, process, transport and consume food in this country.” - *Civil Eats*

In an effort to respond to the rapidly changing funding and support landscape, a national multi-organization team pulled together a list of resources for folks in the agricultural community. The following resources are for agricultural producers of all sizes and scales, with a focus on resources available nationwide.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S3lyS_ny1ZNU26fQGDJKqQlPrIXiQWZzQ2OCuntyblo/edit?tab=t.0

Nominations Open for Five Seats on the National Organic Standards Board

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is a Federal Advisory Board made up of 15 dedicated public volunteers from across the organic community. Appointees will serve a 5-year term that begins in January 2026 and ends in January 2031. USDA seeks to fill the following five positions:

- 2 Organic Producers (individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation or employees of such individual)
- 2 Individuals who represent Public Interest or Consumer Interest groups
- 1 Representative of a USDA-accredited Organic Certifying Agent

Details can be found on the [USDA NOSB Nominations page](#). Nominations are due September 9, 2025.

Education & Funding Support

In-Person Events Throughout the Region

8- Hour Land Owner Prescribed Burn Course

The 8-hour Landowner Course covers the basics of prescribed fire in Kentucky and is geared toward the private landowner interested in burning his/her property within the regulations set forth in KRS149.375 (fire ban seasons and burn windows). More info at <https://www.kyfire.org/8-hour-land-owner> .Interested in participating in this course and other trainings? [Sign Up](#) for the training mailing list.

- August 9th, Franklin County, [read more](#).
- September 13th, Nicholas County, [read more](#).
- September, Rowan County, details to come.

Orchard Walk

August 13, 2025, 6-8PM ET

University of Kentucky North Farm - 1925 Research Farm Road, Lexington, KY 40511

Join UK Fruit Specialists and the Kentucky Horticulture Council for an orchard walk at the Modern Orchard Systems and Climate Resilience Research and Extension Orchard at the University of Kentucky's North Farm in Lexington. Don't forget your boots, as this is a walking tour!

Reach out to dakota@kyhortcouncil.org with questions. Registration here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7QXcoJSjehIVjv6b2zoZLDon33xU197W3dTwmXOifZAiQA/viewform>

Silvopasture in Practice: Farm Tour

August 23, 1 - 4 pm ET

Greenfield Ohio

Whether you're exploring silvopasture for the first time or planning your own planting, this free tour offers on-the-ground insight and inspiration. You'll walk away with practical ideas for integrating trees into livestock systems, understanding design considerations, and key lessons from a farm in the early stages of implementation.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/silvopasture-in-practice-farm-tour-tickets-1431850676919>

High Tunnel Water Catchment Maintenance and Repair Workshop

August 27, 9 am - 12 pm ET

Letcher, Kentucky

Join Grow Appalachia to learn how to maintain and repair NRCS compatible high tunnel water catchment systems with in person demonstrations including: hip boards, gutters, tanks and pump, micro irrigation, and cost analysis. Registration Required: https://bera.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1WX8j2G0lkE1wQS

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1066928228838646/>

Virtual Events

Farmer Peer Discussion Series

From the Midwest Vegetable Growers (MVEG) and FairShare CSA Coalition:

- August 11 - Organic & Other Certifications

Each session is scheduled from 12:30 - 1:30pm ET. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/farmer-peer-discussion-series-springsummer-sessions-tickets-1286361685429>

Central Appalachian Network (CAN) Peer-to-Peer Webinar Series

Join the CAN Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution (PAD) Working Group for a monthly informational webinar series aimed at PAD practitioners and food and farm business owners. Register once and attend any events in the series.

Aug 21, 2025 01:00 PM Demystifying Certification and Regulatory Requirements

Sep 18, 2025 01:00 PM Understanding How to Create an FDA Value-Added Product

Oct 16, 2025 01:00 PM Labor and Personnel Management

Nov 20, 2025 01:00 PM Year-end Recap

https://chatham.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UtVLGckoSimXCNyKUJaH-w#/registration

Forest Farming: Introduction to American Ginseng Webinar

Sept 4, 6:30 - 8 pm ET

Learn to identify, grow, and steward American ginseng, a prized Appalachian plant with ecological and economic value. Perfect for growers, foragers, and nature enthusiasts!

<https://extension.psu.edu/forest-farming-introduction-to-american-ginseng>

Find Funding
Opportunities Here

Find Farming Resources
Here

Search OAK's Find-a-Farm
Directory

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.

Renew your OAK Membership

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