



Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

2025 Conference: Call for Session Proposals

Submit a proposal now through July 19, 2024

OAK is excited to announce the 2025 Conference call for session proposals! Submissions are now open for [OAK's 14th Annual Farming Conference, January 23-25, 2025, in Frankfort, KY](#). The 2025 conference theme is *Grounded in Organics: From Soil to Market*, and OAK seeks innovative and engaging conference sessions relevant to Kentucky's thriving organic and regenerative agriculture community.

The conference audience includes hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in the regional food system as farmers, agricultural professionals, service providers, agency partners, local food advocates and more. On-farm production systems and practices are the focus of the conference agenda, which will feature sessions for beginning to advanced farmers on topics like agroforestry, climate resiliency, markets, livestock, specialty crops and soil health. **Submissions are open now through July 19 2024.**

14TH ANNUAL OAK CONFERENCE

Grounded in Organics:
From Soil to Market



2025
CALL
FOR
SESSION
PROPOSALS

JANUARY 23-25, 2025 | FRANKFORT, KY
SUBMIT A PROPOSAL AT [OAK-KY.ORG](https://oak-ky.org)

[Learn More and Submit a Session Proposal](#)

Reduced Tillage, Cover Crops and Crop Rotations

Join the June 4 Field Day at Lazy Eight Stock Farm, in Paint Lick KY

Lazy Eight Stock Farm is a 420-acre Certified Organic farm located on the banks of the Paint Lick Creek in Madison and Garrard counties. Dedicated to farming practices that are rooted in biological systems, Bryce Baumann and his 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 serve the farm, their community and 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.

Register TODAY

OAK Farmer Field Days: Register Now or Save the Date

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!

Reduced Tillage, Cover Crops, and Crop Rotations on an Organic Vegetable Farm

Lazy Eight Stock Farm in Paint Lick KY

June 4, 2024, 1 - 4 pm ET - *Register Today!*

Innovating Generational Farming Practices with Ecological Approaches and System Efficiencies

Foxfire Farm in Liberty, KY

June 18, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET - *Register Today!*

Building a Small-Scale Family Farm One Year at a Time

Wolf Gap Gardens in Berea, KY

July 9, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET - *Register Today!*

Nutrient Management, Hedgerows and More - *Details Coming Soon; Save the Date!*

Barr Farms in Rhodelia, KY

September 5, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET

Rotational Grazing and Pasture Improvement - *Details Coming Soon; Save the Date!*

Valley Spirit Farm in Campbellsburg, KY

September 23, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET

Soil Health, Farmer Health, Community Health - *Details Coming Soon; Save the Date!*

Apostles Garden in Bowling Green, KY

October 10, 2024, 1 - 4 pm CT

Recordings and Resources for April Webinar on NRCS EQIP

OAK's April [webinar](#) brought together Natural Resources 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).

If you have questions about how to get started with EQIP, are interested in applying for NRCS assistance before this Fall's EQIP ranking dates, or want to explore NRCS conservation assistance for your farm or the land you steward, reach out to Mad Marchal, OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator, at mad@oak-ky.org or [book an appointment with Mad here](#).

This event was supported by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

[View Resources and Recording](#)

2024 OAK Conference Session Recordings

OAK is thrilled to offer recordings of 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 2024. Enjoy and learn from these incredible presentations!

[View Available Recordings](#)

OAK Highlights: Climate-Smart Project and Organic Production Consultations

Farms - Apply to Participate in OAK's Climate-Smart Project

Farmers with commercial operations interested in soil health, climate solutions and building on farm resilience, now is the time to apply to participate in OAK's new [Climate-Smart Project](#). Along with our partners, OAK is accepting farm applications to enroll acres in this new incentive program. Farms will be invited to stay with the project for multiple years, and the first cohort will start this spring. Farmers enrolled in the project will complete a whole farm self-assessment and then work one-on-one with a Soil Health Specialist to add or expand climate-smart practices to their farm. Farms will receive incentive payments for implementing practices such as cover crops, conservation cover, pollinator habitat, nutrient management, grazing, agroforestry and more! [Apply now](#).

[Upcoming Partner Opportunities](#)

Applications Open for RAFI Beginning Farmers Stipends

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Speed Dating Events

May 24, VIRTUAL OPTION

Apply by Friday, May 31, 2024 at 5:00 pm ET

May 31, TBD West KY

Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) is accepting applications for the 2024 Beginning Farmers Stipend. Stipends support the success of [Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#) by helping to reduce financial barriers. **Stipends may be used to cover farming start-up and/or production costs.** Individual applicants may request between \$3,000 – \$5,000 in funding. Questions? Feel free to contact Bianca Anthony, bianca@rafiusa.org. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

OAK will share details on the [Climate Smart Project](#), as will Accelerating Appalachia, Fischer Farms Natural Foods, Grasslands Partnership, Laula's Mercantile 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. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Upcoming In-Person Events

Farms - Schedule a Production Consultation with OAK's Organic Production Specialist

Kentucky farmers, start your 2024 production season with [organic technical assistance](#), intended for farmers currently using or interested in using organic practices. OAK's Organic Production Specialist,

Third Thursday Thing on Aquaculture

Tomorrow, May 16, 10 am - 2 pm ET

Sarah Gourkink is available to respond to production-related inquiries and consult with farmers one-on-one by phone, virtually and on the farm. This service is for commercial farms and market gardens

that are currently selling or planning to sell their products. Organic technical assistance 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. [Learn more and schedule a consultation.](#)

Join the KYSU Small Farms email list at <https://bit.ly/kysuemail>

workshop - Free event, lunch included. Watch the recordings online at youtube.com/kysuag/live

Grazing Field School at Mt Folly Farm

May 22, 9 am - 4:30 pm ET

Winchester KY

Work with professionals in Holistic Management® to learn practical steps to bring your farm to its full potential. Mt. Folly's 'Management Intensive Grazing & Safe to Fail Workshop' will show what a million pounds of livestock per acre looks like on the ground and what a year of regrowth provides using a small area as a trial. Don't miss this opportunity to network with peer producers across our region and consider new possibilities for your farm business. [Register here](#)

Grow Appalachia's Crop Mob at Rabbit Run Farm

May 30, 10 am - 3 pm

Berea, KY

Grow Appalachia's crop mob at Rabbit Run Farm will be a hands-on learning and networking event for beginning and experienced farmers to share knowledge while learning, working together and engaging in community building. [Learn more and register here.](#)

VFGC's Southwest Virginia Summer Forage Tour

June 18 - June 20

The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) is hosting a 3-day tour of six cattle operations with a variety of forage systems. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Upcoming Virtual Events

Crop Health Webinar from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)

May 21, 2024, 10 - 11:15 am ET

This webinar provides a look at FFAR-funded research covering plant health, including:

1. What is Plant Health & Challenges of Climate Change
2. Influences of Plant Health: Water

3. Influences of Plant Health: Soil

4. Plant Health Connections: Human & Global Health

FFAR invests in research that produces actionable results, which benefit farmers, consumers and the environment. Their research results are publicly available. [Learn more and register here](#)

Webinar: How to Offer CSA with Online SNAP

May 21, 2024, 12 - 1 pm ET

Hear from Local Food Marketplace about their support of online SNAP/EBT for qualified markets and learn how Rosebird Farms has updated their CSA program to accommodate online SNAP payments.

[Register here for this webinar from the CSA Innovations Lab](#)

Livestream Event: Farmer Mental Health in a Changing Climate

May 22, 2024, 11 am - 12 pm ET

Join American Farmland Trust for a Free Range Conversation® for Mental Health Awareness Month where we'll highlight challenges faced by farmers, ranchers, and service providers who work on the land, as well as strengths and resources found in our communities. American Farmland Trust's Addie Candib will moderate a conversation with Lian Zeitz, Climate Mental Health Network, Caitlin Arnold Stephano, Farm Aid and Carolina Mueller, National Young Farmers Coalition. [Learn more and join live here](#)

Rodale Institute's Free Online Courses for Farmers

The Rodale Institute is offering their online courses for free for a limited time. Courses are available in ten languages, including Spanish. [Learn more and take a course here.](#)

Educational and Farming Support

NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through its [Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative \(GLCI\)](#) until Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Free Produce Safety Alliance Training for Spanish-speaking Farmers

The Produce Safety Alliance is offering an additional pilot of the Spanish Language Online Grower Training. This pilot course will be offered at no cost to the participants. This training is being offered specifically to Spanish-speaking growers. If you know of any growers that would benefit from participating in an online grower training, please contact [Mariana Villarreal Silva](#), with the PSA, to find out more details about this training. [Learn more \(in Spanish\) here](#)

Commercial Berry Grower Surveys

Do you grow blueberries, brambles, or strawberries commercially? If so, the University of Kentucky Extension Specialists need your help! In order to determine future priorities and grower needs for disease, insect, and weed management, more information about the current challenges that growers face is needed. Information can be submitted through a survey for blueberry, brambles, and strawberry, independently. Each survey is quick and takes approximately 5-7 minutes to complete. All submissions are anonymous. Responses to these surveys will assist in the development of new resources and trainings for growers.

Blueberry Growers Survey - https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_739YOWEjigB8QYK

Bramble Growers Survey - https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fgkeBHHSiHHZhI

Strawberry Growers Survey - https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eb5nmo54tjLxCBw

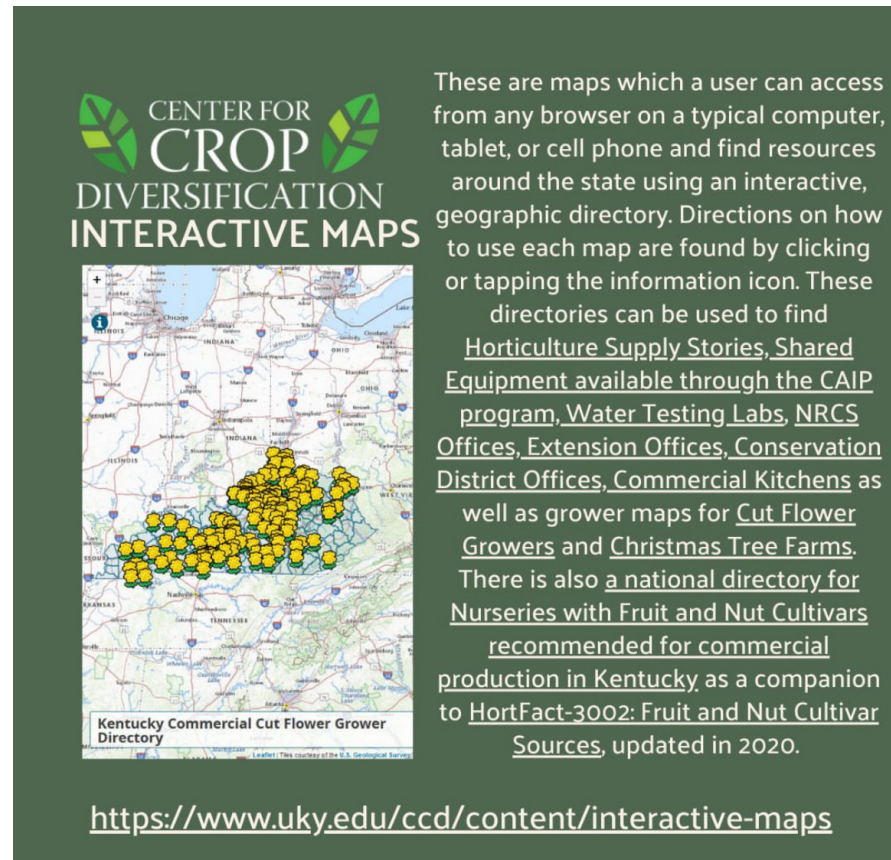
Postharvest Survey - https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2tXeWzkAdOHHy4e

New Weather App Developed for Kentucky Farmers

A new smartphone app called "Weather Alert" was developed in collaboration between the UK Ag Weather Center, UK Center for Computational Sciences, and Southeastern Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention (SCAHIP). The goals of this app are two-fold: to heighten awareness during extreme weather conditions and secondly, to empower Kentucky farming operations with valuable insights for management and production-related decisions. Bonus: This weather app is free and has NO ads! Learn more and download the app [here](#)

Interactive Maps from the Center for Crop Diversification at UK

Explore these interactive online map directories to find Horticulture Supply Stores, Shared Equipment, Water Testing Labs, USDA and Cooperative Extension Offices, Commercial Kitchens, Kentucky Cut Flower and Christmas Tree Farms, and more! Click the image below, or [here for more information](#).



CENTER FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION INTERACTIVE MAPS

These are maps which a user can access from any browser on a typical computer, tablet, or cell phone and find resources around the state using an interactive, geographic directory. Directions on how to use each map are found by clicking or tapping the information icon. These directories can be used to find [Horticulture Supply Stores](#), [Shared Equipment available through the CAIP program](#), [Water Testing Labs](#), [NRCS Offices](#), [Extension Offices](#), [Conservation District Offices](#), [Commercial Kitchens](#) as well as grower maps for [Cut Flower Growers](#) and [Christmas Tree Farms](#). There is also a [national directory for Nurseries with Fruit and Nut Cultivars recommended for commercial production in Kentucky](#) as a companion to [HortFact-3002: Fruit and Nut Cultivar Sources](#), updated in 2020.

<https://www.uky.edu/ccd/content/interactive-maps>

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

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