



## Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

### Join the OAK Team!

The Organic Association of Kentucky is seeking candidates for one new position. This position is full-time and will be working on OAK's new Climate-Smart Project. Anyone 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 those enrolled in OAK's Climate-Smart Project and to develop management plans based on NRCS practice standards to improve soil health.

**Apply by 8/30/2024 for full consideration.**

Apply Today

### CSA Farmers: Join CSA Week Promotions

Save the date for **Kentucky Proud Fall CSA Week, September 16-20!** During this week, Kentucky consumers can explore fall CSA signup opportunities across the state on social media and in the [CSA in Kentucky Facebook Group](#).

If you are a CSA farmer offering a Fall CSA, Year-round CSA or taking signups in your Main Season CSA this September - December, **join as a partner farm by Sunday August 18 [HERE](#).**

### Learn More About On-Farm Conservation

OAK's Conservation Outreach program provides one-on-one assistance for Kentuckians interested in adding conservation practices to their land or farm management. From urban gardens to rural farmscapes, woodland owners to tenant farmers, OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator can assist Kentuckians in creating an individualized conservation plan and navigating the process for technical or financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Learn More

**One-on-One Conservation Support:** Schedule a time with OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator, Mad Marchal, to share your farm and land goals and explore conservation planning, financial resources and technical assistance.

[Schedule a Conversation](#)

**Register Today for Farmer Field Days (and join our Lunch Social!)**



## OAK FARMER FIELD DAY

Perennial Possibilities and  
Annual Rotations

September 5, 2024, 9 am -12 pm ET  
Barr Farms | Rhodelia, KY

## GRAZE AND GATHER LUNCH SOCIAL

12:30 - 2:30pm ET at Barr Farms  
Food and drink available for purchase



[Register for September 5 Field Day here](#)

### **Four Field Days - and an OAK Social! - in September and October**

Visit Kentucky farms and join the conversation with peer farmers and resource providers. Join OAK for on-farm learning and sharing from these farmer hosts:

- **Adam Barr and Rae Strobel** share Barr Farms' organic vegetable production in fields and high tunnels, perennial plantings and alley cropping. After the Field Day, stay for lunch and keep the

conversation going!

- [Perennial Possibilities and Annual Rotations](#)  
September 5, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET - Meade/Breckinridge County line
- [Graze and Gather Lunch Social](#)  
September 5, 2024, 12:30 - 2:30 pm ET
- **Headwater Farm** cultivates produce for community partners and supports small local agribusinesses. This Field Day highlights the multitude of voices of this community endeavor and shares the whole-farm conservation initiatives of **Lexington nonprofit Seedleaf**.
  - [Exploring the Ecosystems of Community and Conservation](#)  
September 12, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET - Fayette County
- **Joseph and Abbie Monroe** offer a glimpse into their management of 100+ acres of pasture and closed-herd grass-fed cattle with rotational grazing, cover crops as forage and on-farm sustainability.
  - [From the Soil Up - Rotational Grazing and Pasture Improvement](#)  
September 23, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm ET - Henry County
- **Jackson Rolett** provides a tour of his half-acre collaborative market farm on church land, offering perspective on mission-driven food systems work, part-time and co-farming realities, work-life balance, leasing community land and minimal-till organic vegetable systems.
  - [Growing on Principles: Soil, Farmer and Community Health](#)  
October 10, 2024, 1-4 pm CT - Warren County

**Missed a Field Day? Visit our Past Field Day Resources**

Summaries, farmer hacks and lessons learned are now available on [OAK's website](#).

Register for 2024 Field Days [HERE](#)

## Upcoming Partner Opportunities

### People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture

The [People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture](#) seeks research posters on the topics of:

- a just and resilient food economy;
- healthy local food for all;
- climate and environmental justice;
- plant, soil, and animal science;
- community organizing and power-building; and more!

For more info about the poster session and to apply, visit [tinyurl.com/PeoplesSummit2024Posters](https://tinyurl.com/PeoplesSummit2024Posters)

**Applications are due before midnight on Sunday, August 18.** Informal experience-based research as well as more formal data-driven research. All ages are welcome to apply!

Posters will be presented during the full-day conference of the People's Summit on Friday, September 13, 2024, at Louisville Central Community Center (LCCC), located at 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd (Louisville 40203). Registration scholarships are available for new and beginning farmers to participate! [Here is the link to register for the People's Summit](#).

### Kentucky Climate Symposium

The [Inaugural Kentucky Climate Symposium](#) will be held on September 26, 2024, at the University of Kentucky Gatton Student Center in Lexington, KY. The day-long symposium brings together students and experts from higher education, government, industry, media, and communities to share information and resources on climate change. **OAK Executive Director Brooke Gentile will present on the**

**Agriculture Panel**, one of multiple moderated panel conversations on the Symposium agenda, which also includes networking opportunities and a student art competition. Attendees will join a multisector, interdisciplinary, statewide community that emphasizes climate change solutions.

Conference registration fees are kept low with the generous support of our sponsors and include free registration for students and no-questions-asked fee waivers for any attendees.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your registration, please contact Gail Wallace with the Kentucky Climate Consortium ([gailwallace@uky.edu](mailto:gailwallace@uky.edu)).

## Certified Organic Crop Inspector Training

This training in **Frankfort, KY, on November 4-8, 2024**, provides successful participants all they need to become an organic crop inspector and is intended to support participation by minority and socially disadvantaged stakeholders, including immigrant farmers and small farmers who can't access the resources to pay for training. Certified organic status is not required of participants. Priority will be given to residents of Kentucky. [Register and Apply for the IOIA training before September 20, 2024.](#)

Watch this short video clip and get inspired to [Become an Organic Inspector!](#)

*"Organic farming represents an opportunity for minority farmers to participate in a growing market while garnering higher farm profits. Organic inspection is an overlooked career path and bringing diversity into the ranks of inspectors may help bring more diversity into the ranks of organic farmers."*

*- Dr. Shawn Lucas (former Kentucky State University organic agronomist)*

This training is funded by the USDA through a Kentucky Specialty Crop Block Grant, administered by the KY Department of Agriculture and following the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA)'s curriculum requirements.

## More Support for Organic Transition

Organic Transition Initiative 823 is specifically meant to help farmers transitioning to organic operations. OAK is building Kentucky-specific resources and support for this brand new [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) initiative](#); reach out to Mad Marchal for information and assistance.

The Organic Farmers Association (OFA) is also collecting feedback from farmers who have applied or are currently working with NRCS on this practice. They want to learn from these experience so OFA can better support transitioning organic farmers. Please reach out to OFA's Farmer Services Team to help: (833-724-3834) or [organicfarmersassociation.org](http://organicfarmersassociation.org).

OAK's Organic Transition specialists assist farmers who are interested in transitioning to USDA-certified organic production. Organic Specialists are available for one-on-one consultations, providing a personal level of service and technical assistance on-site, at the farmer's convenience. Learn more at <https://www.oak-ky.org/organic-transition>.

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## Upcoming In-Person Events

### Black Soil KY's The State of The Soil Conference

September 8-11, 2024

Origin Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky

This inaugural conference will be an opportunity to learn about building an intersectional and equitable food system. **Registration closes August 25** or when capacity is reached.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



## 2024 Southern Ohio Forest Farming Conference

September 27-29, 2024

Rutland, Ohio

Join Rural Action and the Sustainable Forestry team at the beautiful United Plant Savers Botanical Sanctuary to talk about all things forest farming! This weekend-long event will showcase topics such as site selection, forest botanical and mushroom cultivation and harvest, mulberry production, plant propagation and planting stock, the business of agroforestry and medicinal plant walks. Plus, in-depth information on opportunities for forest farmers such as access to the Rural Action Native Plant Nursery, free site assessment and management plans, technical and financial assistance through NRCS and forest farming mentorship. [Register here](#).

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## Upcoming Virtual Events

### One Good Idea Shop Talk: How to Extend the Grazing Season

**TODAY, August 15, 2024, 12:30pm ET**

Kentucky producer Ben Robin is seeking ideas for how to extend the grazing season while keeping an eye toward conservation. Whether you are "conservation curious" or have been doing conservation practices for years, join the conversation to share your ideas and learn from fellow producers! Good Idea Shop Talks is a weekly, virtual meet-up series for row crop and livestock producers to exchange ideas and problem solve together about how to be good stewards while protecting profitability. [Learn more and register](#).

### Organic Research Webinar

**August 21, 2024, 1pm ET**

This gathering will feature presentations from three esteemed researchers who were recipients of the 2022 Organic Research Farming Foundation (OFRF) Organic Research Grant. Their groundbreaking work is transforming the landscape of sustainable agriculture, and this event is your opportunity to learn more about their work and the impacts they've had on their farming community. Research includes organic management of invasive brassica pests, evaluating seeding methods and timing of cover crops interseeded into organic corn, and increasing the productivity and market value of pulse crops for arid organic conditions through breeding. [Learn more here](#)

### Organic Inputs: OMRI Certification, Certifier Roles and Best Practices

**August 22, 2024, 11am ET**

Webinar from Florida Organic Growers; [register here](#).

### Forest Farming: American Ginseng and Seed Saving

**August 22, 2024, 6:30-8:00pm ET**

Join this Penn State Extension event to explore forest farming and discover the nutritional and medicinal properties of American Ginseng. Ideal for forest landowners, foragers, natural resource professionals, and gardeners. [Register here](#)

### Creative Farmland Access Through Self-Directed IRAs

**August 27, 1-2:30pm ET**

Learn how a regular investor used an SDIRA to leverage her retirement savings to purchase farmland for an organic farmer. [Register here](#) for this \$10 event from Illinois FarmLink.

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# Educational and Farming Support

## Garden Grants from Grow Appalachia

Grow Appalachia is now accepting 2025 Garden Grant Proposals! Draft proposals are **due by September 1, 2024**, and FINAL proposals are due October 1st. Click the link for more information [Garden Grants - Grow Appalachia \(berea.edu\)](#).

## SARE's What is Sustainable Agriculture? Now Available in Spanish

SARE's [What is Sustainable Agriculture?](#) bulletin and companion animated series are now available in Spanish! [¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible?](#) features short, translated primers of proven sustainable practices that can be used to complement more detailed training materials.

- Soil Health ([Salud del Suelo](#))
- Health and Wellbeing of People ([Salud y Bienestar de las Personas](#))
- Ecological Pest Management ([Manejo Ecológico de Plagas](#))
- Biological Diversity ([Diversidad Biológica](#))

The [companion animation series](#) highlights some common practices farmers and ranchers use to improve profitability, quality of life and environmental stewardship, including:

- A Whole-Farm Approach to Sustainability ([Un Enfoque Integral de la Sostenibilidad en la Finca](#))
- Cover Crops ([Cultivos de Cobertura](#))
- Conservation Tillage ([Labranza para Conservación y Salud del Suelo](#))
- Sustainable Grazing ([Gestión Sustentable de los Pastos y del Pastoreo](#))

[¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible?](#) is now available for viewing and sharing at [www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org) and on [YouTube](#). Download or order your free print copy of [¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible?](#) at <https://www.sare.org/resources/que-es-la-agricultura-sostenible/> or by calling (301) 779-1007. [¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible?](#) is available in quantity for free to educators for use in educational workshops, classes or tours.

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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