



## Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

## OAK Webinar to Feature Conservation on Small-Scale and Urban Farms

### Small Spaces, Whole Ecosystems: Conservation on Small-Scale and Urban Farms

November 12, 2024 -- 12:30 - 1:30 pm ET

Join this free, one-hour webinar to learn details of conservation practices and support available with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Urban grower Velvet Welch will share her story of working with NRCS to support her small-scale Louisville farm. Conservation and Education Coordinators from the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) and Kentucky NRCS Urban Conservationist Nathan Lind will share about available technical assistance and financial incentives and recommend next steps in working with OAK and NRCS for conservation support. *This event is supported by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).*

[Learn More and Register HERE](#)

## October 18, 2024 is EQIP Cutoff Date for Kentucky

### Schedule FREE Conservation Assistance with OAK Today!

**October 18, 2024** is the cutoff date for this year's [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) program applications in Kentucky.

[Contact Your Local NRCS Agent](#)

## Organic Certification Cost Share Assistance - Apply By October 31

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the [National Organic Program](#) (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. **The deadline to apply is October 31, 2024.**

## Upcoming Partner Opportunities

### Kentucky Composting Conference

**October 17-18, 2024 -- Louisville, KY**

The 2024 Kentucky Composting Conference brings together experts in the field of composting, along with researchers and policy makers, to discuss the state of composting in Kentucky and best practices in sustainability. The conference will cover a wide range of topics that will benefit farmers, backyard composters and large-scale compost operations. This two-day conference will include engaging speakers and hands-on demonstrations at the University of Louisville composting site. [Register here.](#)

### Planning for Farm Diversification Workshop in West KY

**October 22, 2024 -- Murray, KY**

Join the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development for this free workshop to enhance your farm business planning, gain valuable information on production certifications, and connect with potential buyers. This comprehensive program offers opportunities to network with industry experts and technical assistance providers. Elevate your farming operations and explore new growth avenues with tailored support and guidance. **Stop and visit with Jenny and Mad at the OAK table!** Lunch will be provided. [Register here.](#)

### Apply for Business Builder Subaward Before November 1!

The [Appalachia USDA Regional Food Business Center \(ARFBC\)](#) exists to strategically build, innovate, and coordinate a fair Appalachian food system that cultivates health and wealth for all Appalachians. The Center offers sub-regional technical assistance via 16 Center Technical Assistance Providers (C-TAPs), many collaborators, and through its Business Builder Subaward Program (BBS). Through its BBS Program, the Center provides financial assistance in amounts ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Projects should be locally focused, align with ARFBC goals, and have measurable outcomes. The ARFBC will execute a total of five cycles of competitive awards with two parallel tracks, Planning and Development (P&D) and Implementation and Expansion (I&E). The Planning & Development BBS aims to enhance and expand the Center's technical assistance and coordination efforts. The Implementation & Expansion BBS are intended for innovative projects focused on regional needs and the Center's strategic priorities. Eligible entities are permitted to submit one application per round and may apply over multiple funding cycles until the max funding per entity of \$100,000 is reached. [Learn more and apply here.](#) **Apply By November 1st, 2024, 12 pm ET.**

### "Small Farms, Big Community" Regional Conference Scholarship

Save the dates for the inaugural [SOWTH](#), a regional "small farms, big community" conference hosted by Georgia Organics! Taking place February 4-6, 2025, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, this three-day gathering will feature several distinct educational tracks, a distinguished keynote speaker, farm tours, and over 1,000 farmers and leaders committed to sowing a strong sustainable agricultural and local food movement across our Southern region and beyond. SOWTH Scholarship Applications are open through Nov. 13, 2024.

<https://georgiaorganics.wufoo.com/forms/sowth-scholarship-application/>

## 2025 Farmer-Led Trial Applications Open

Are you an organic or transitioning farmer or rancher who wants to test out a new agricultural practice on your farm? The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)'s Farmer-Led Trials program provides farmers with funding and technical assistance to investigate and learn about solutions to their most pressing production challenges.

In order to address the challenges certified organic and transitioning-to-organic producers face, OFRF's FLT program will provide support for on-farm learning trials aimed at testing new practices, inputs, varieties or animal breeds that can improve profitability and environmental sustainability, leading to more resilient organic farms and ranches.

Applications for the 2025 season are open until December 1, 2024. Visit [the OFRF website](#) to learn more about the program.

## Upcoming In-Person Events

### **Building Equity: Women Leading Conservation Field Day**

**October 16, 2024, 10 am - 2 pm ET**

**Bear Fruit and Grow Farm, Louisville**

Presented by KY Ag Development Advocacy (KADA) and sponsored by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), this event is hosted by Leticia Marshall, a leading advocate for urban agriculture education and food justice in Jefferson County. This field day will focus on building equity in conservation, highlighting the vital role that women play in advancing sustainable agricultural practices. You'll have the opportunity to connect with other women leaders in the agriculture and conservation space, hear from experts - including **OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator Mad Marchal** - and engage in meaningful discussions about the future of conservation in Kentucky and beyond. Please [register](#) to attend; space is limited and lunch is provided.

### **Third Thursday Thing: Small Ruminants**

**October 17, 2024, 10 am - 2:30 pm ET**

**Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, Frankfort**

KSU's College of Agriculture is hosting Third Thursday on October 17. For more information, please call 502.597.5811 or email [edwin.chavous@kysu.edu](mailto:edwin.chavous@kysu.edu). Learn more about Monthly Third Thursday events; join the KYSU Small Farms email list at <https://bit.ly/kysuemail>.

### **Meet the Farmers: Sustainable Food Communities**

**October 19, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm ET**

**Douglass Park, 726 Georgetown Street, Lexington**

Join Clark County based Sustainable Food Communities for a FREE workshop on chicken farming followed by a free food distribution in partnership with the Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA). Families are encouraged to arrive early and come with questions on chicken farming and how-tos on local meats. Hosted in partnership with Georgetown St. Neighborhood Association. Registration is NOT required to attend but early arrival is highly recommended.

### **Invasive Plant Management Field Day**

**October 22, 2024, 9 am - 3 pm ET**

**Clay Wildlife Management Area, Carlisle**

Join the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the KY State University Forestry and Natural Resources program to see different types of invasive plant management practices. They'll show areas that have received management and demonstrate select tools and equipment use to implement some of these practices. These will include:

- Helicopter herbicide application area – (*equipment not being demonstrated*)

- Drone herbicide application area – (*work areas and will demonstrate if equipment is available*)
- Forestry mulcher – (*work areas and equipment demonstration*)
- Brush cutters – (*work areas and equipment demonstration*)
- Fire – (*work areas*)

Lunch available to first 60 registrants; [register here](#).

### **On-Farm Tree Planting Workshop**

**October 26, 9-11 am ET**

**River Hill Ranch, Richmond**

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the best practices for successful tree planting on your farm!

Join National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) Sustainable Agriculture Specialist Tammy Barnes, producer Alvina Maynard, and native habitat conservationist and producer Jane Harrod for a morning exploring the challenges and opportunities of tree establishment.

This workshop is FREE but registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

For more information, please contact Tammy Barnes at [tammyb@ncat.org](mailto:tammyb@ncat.org).

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## **Upcoming Virtual Events**

### **Reducing Feed Costs in Organic Pig Production Webinar**

**October 17, 2024, 2 pm ET**

Feed costs represent 65 to 75% of the total cost to produce a market hog and have a significant impact on profitability of organic pig farming. Utilizing grains harvested from winter cover crops as a feed ingredient for pigs can potentially protect the environment and reduce feed costs. In this webinar, we will discuss how supplementing hybrid rye or camelina press-cake in pig diets can influence pig growth, pork quality and potential savings on feed and bedding based on research conducted at the University of Minnesota. We will discuss the best practices in organic pig production and key factors for saving production costs. The webinar will help farmers improve organic pig production efficiency and make decisions on raising small grains for organic pigs. [Register here](#).

### **Managing Dairy Manure for Increased Soil Health and Forage Production Sustainability**

**October 18, 2024, 2:30 pm ET**

Manure is a valuable source of crop-essential nutrients that, when managed carefully, can help build soil organic matter, enhance nutrient cycling, and improve overall soil health and climate resilience over time. In 2022, a statewide on-farm research project was initiated in New York State to quantify the nitrogen (N) replacement value, corn silage or grain yield, and soil health enhancements of various manure sources. Assessment of the variability of different manure sources point to the importance of manure sampling and analyses. Preliminary results will be shared. [Register here](#).

### **Managing Pests with Bio-Pesticides**

**October 22, 2024, 2pm ET**

Wild Farm Alliance is pleased to offer a [free 12-lesson virtual course](#) for PCAs, CCA, scouts, growers and other agricultural professionals about whole farm pest management. Covering the latest research, the Whole Farm Sustainable Pest Management Webinars are given by experts in entomology, plant health, plant pathology, microbial pest control, ecology, avian pest control and whole farm management.

### **Free Suicide Prevention Training**

**October 24, 4pm ET**

AgriSafe is offering free suicide prevention training designed specifically for agricultural communities.

Together, we can work to reduce the number of deaths by suicide and support those who are struggling.

The intended audience for this training is anyone interacting with individuals in the agricultural industry, including agribusiness and rural business employers/employees. [Register here.](#)

### Online Sales & Marketing for your CSA

October 30, 2024, 2 pm ET

Join CSA Innovation Network partners from Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) & Taste the Local Difference, along with guests from e-commerce support platforms Local Line & Farmhand to learn all the tricks of the trade when it comes to finding success with online sales & marketing for CSA.

[Register here.](#)

## Educational and Farming Support

### Grants Available to Advance Recycling Infrastructure and Prevent Wasted Food

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$117 million for three separate funding opportunities to advance recycling infrastructure and boost food waste prevention education across the country. Two of the notices are for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grants – one funding opportunity for Tribes and intertribal consortia and another for [communities \(such as cities, counties, and parishes\)](#) across the country. The third notice is for [EPA's Recycling Education and Outreach grant program, focused on food waste prevention and composting.](#)

### “Younger Generations Fueling Growth in the Organic Industry”

From the [Organic Grower](#): "In recent years, the beginnings of a seismic shift have been observed in consumer behavior, primarily driven by the younger generations. Millennials and Gen Z are not just interested in what they eat; they are deeply invested in the values that their food represents. This trend towards value-based eating has the potential to transform the food industry, with organic food at the forefront of this revolution." [Read more here.](#)

### Grazing Cover Crops - One Good Idea

Grazing cover crops can benefit both your livestock and land. In this podcast by Dane Demo Farms, Karl Sime of Sime Farms shares how he manages cover crops for grazing his beef cows while growing grain on the same acres in a year. Conservation specialist Marie Raboin also discusses the economic advantages of this flexible system. [Listen here.](#)

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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