



## Organic Association of Kentucky

Advancing Organic Agriculture in Kentucky

## Register Now for Last Two Farmer Field Days of 2024!

### Only Two Field Days Remain in 2024!

Visit Kentucky farms in Henry and Warren Counties, and join the conversation with peer farmers and resource providers. Register today for on-farm learning and sharing from these farmer hosts:

**Joseph and Abbie Monroe, Valley Spirit Farm**, 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

[Register for Valley Spirit Farm Field Day HERE](#)



## OAK Farmer Field Day

### FROM THE SOIL UP - ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND PASTURE IMPROVEMENT

September 23 | 9 am - 12 pm ET  
Valley Spirit Farm in Henry County

**Jackson Rolett, Apostles Garden**, 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

[Register for Apostles Garden Field Day HERE](#)



## OAK Farmer Field Day

GROWING ON PRINCIPLES: SOIL HEALTH,  
FARMER HEALTH AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

October 10, 2024, 1 - 4 pm CT  
Apostles Garden, Bowling Green KY

### Save the date for the 14th Annual OAK Conference

SAVE THE DATE for OAK's 14th Annual Organic Farming Conference, Grounded in Organics: From Soil to Market, January 23-25, 2025, at Kentucky State University's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm in Frankfort, Kentucky. Registration will open in October.

[Visit OAK Website for Information & Updates](#)

### Last Call for OAK 2025 Conference Sponsorships!

#### Upcoming Partner Opportunities

Join us at OAK Conference! OAK's annual farming conference brings together over 400 participants, and revenue generated by conference sponsors is foundational for supporting the success of the event.

**Certified Organic Crop Inspector Training**

*"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)*

## Celebrate Kentucky Proud Fall CSA Week!

[Register and Apply for the IOIA training before Friday, September 20, 2024.](#)

This training in **Frankfort, KY, on November 4-8, 2024**, provides successful participants all they need to learn more about local food sourcing opportunities with Kentucky farms **this week!** OAK is co-organizing this awareness campaign on **September 16, 20, 2024** in the **CSA in Kentucky Facebook group**. Each day there will be giveaways, resources, and opportunities to learn more about CSA (community supported agriculture) across the bluegrass. Join the Facebook group and follow OAK on social to find more ways to source from Kentucky farmers this fall. [Watch this short video clip and get inspired to \*Become an Organic Inspector!\*](#)

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.

## 2024 EQIP Cutoff Date! October 18 OAK Can Help!

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. **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. OAK offers conservation guidance and support to Kentucky farmers interested in applying for EQIP. Schedule a 30-minute meeting with Mad Marchal, OAK's Conservation Outreach Specialist to learn more about conservation practices and how to maximize your EQIP application and conservation plan. Learn more about OAK Conservation Resources at [oak-ky.org/conservation](https://oak-ky.org/conservation), or [Schedule a Call Now](#). Conference registration fees are kept low with the generous support from 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)).

## Farmer Scholarship Opportunity to Attend National Organic Standards Board Meeting

The National Organic Coalition (NOC) is offering a limited number of scholarships to farmers who want to attend the [NOC Pre-National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\) meeting](#) (October 21, 2024) & [National Organic Standards Board](#) (NOSB) Meeting (October 22-24) in Portland, OR.

Scholarships can cover any travel-related expenses (mileage, transportation, meals, accommodations if needed). Scholarships will be disbursed based on the number of applications and stated needs, so the amount of each scholarship is unknown at this time.

**Priority will be given to farmers who apply by Friday, September 20.** NOC has limited funds and may not be able to grant all scholarship requests. [Learn more & Apply here](#)

## Upcoming In-Person Events

### UK Extension Float Bed Workshop

**TODAY - September 17, 2024, 5-8 PM**

**1005 Hwy 946, Ezel, KY**

This workshop is for anyone who is familiar with float-bed transplant production but new to commercial horticulture. Speakers from the UK Center for Crop Diversification (Savannah Columbia), UK Food Connection (Heather Graham, Bryan Brady, and Courtney Bartlett), and the UK Greenhouse Horticulture group (Arundathi Sharma and Casey Byrd) will review the basics of nutrient solution management, food safety, and marketing. Refreshments will be provided. Open to ag service providers, commercial growers

or hobbyists interested in learning more. Call or text (747) 777 3542 with any questions or concerns.  
[Click here to register.](#)

### **Orchard Field Walk**

**September 18, 2024, 4 – 6 pm ET**

**University of KY North Farm, 1925 Research Farm Road, Lexington, KY 40511**

Join us for an orchard walk at the new Modern Orchard Systems and Climate Resilience Research and Extension Orchard at the University of Kentucky's North Farm in Lexington. The event will begin with an open house/self-guided tour starting at 4 p.m. (EDT), then a guided tour and group discussion starting at 5 p.m. Participants will learn about new training systems and production techniques in apples, pears, and peaches as well as special considerations for pest and disease control in young orchards from UK extension faculty in horticulture, plant pathology, and entomology. This event will be useful for new growers interested in starting orchards and for existing producers who want to learn the most up-to-date techniques. Spanish translation will be provided for both written and oral materials; please bring a cell phone with headphone/earbud capabilities. [Register here](#)

### **Third Thursday Thing: Pawpaws**

**September 19, 2024, 10am ET**

**KSU Harold R Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, Frankfort KY**

Join this free monthly event, lunch included, featuring a monthly topic - for September: this native Kentucky fruit, the pawpaw. Join the KSU Small Farms Programming email list: <https://bit.ly/kysuemail>

### **Fall Specialty Crop Field Day**

**September 19, 2024, 4-6 PM ET**

**UK Horticulture Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514**

Join University of Kentucky Extension Specialists for demonstrations and discussion at the Horticulture Research Farm. Topics will include harvest techniques, post-harvest and storage considerations, disease management and prevention, and cool weather management strategies. [Register here](#)

### **Kentucky Climate Symposium**

**September 26, 2024**

**University of Kentucky**

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.

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### **Walt Rybka Tree Farm Tour**

**September 26, 2024, 1-6pm ET**

**Rowan County**

Want to see woodland and wildlife practices up close? Tour of Kentucky Tre Farmer of the Year Walt Rybka's Tree Farm on September 26 in Rowan County and you will see woodland and wildlife management practices up close. Walt has a wonderful operation and offers sensible hands-on perspectives on management practices. Dinner is provided for this free event. Seating is limited; bring camp chairs! [Register by September 20 here](#) or call Rowan County Extension Office at 606-784-5457

## 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

### Whole Farm Sustainable Pest Management Webinar Course

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 sessions are given by experts in entomology, plant health, plant pathology, microbial pest control, ecology, avian pest control and whole farm management.

#### Optimizing Beneficial Insects and Their Habitat: Lesson 1

September 24, 2024, 2pm ET

This first lesson, features University of Kentucky Entomologist Nathan Haan, and Houston Wilson, UCCE and UC Organic Ag Institute. [Register here](#)

After this first one-hour webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe how predators' and parasitoids' characteristics and requirements influence their pest control services and how these are embodied in the 'SNAP' acronym.
- Explain why the amount and spatial arrangement of semi-natural habitat matters and what we know about how to optimize it.
- Describe the influence of landscape diversity on biological control of leafhoppers in vineyards.
- Explain how stacking ecosystem services can potentially increase the value of on-farm habitat diversification.

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## Educational and Farming Support

### The Business Builder Subaward Application is now open!

Apply By November 1st, 2024, 12pm ET

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](#)

### **Kentucky Strawberry Growers at Risk for Neopestalotiopsis Disease**

In late August, Neopestalotiopsis disease (Neo-P) was confirmed in strawberry cuttings across Kentucky. Some cuttings showed symptoms quickly, while others developed symptoms several days after becoming infected. Neopestalotiopsis disease is caused by a fungus that can infect both cuttings and mature plants. Symptoms can range from leaf spots to crown and root rots to fruit infections. The pathogen overwinters in debris and as melanized spores in soil. Once introduced to fields, it can survive 3 to 5 years. [Learn more here](#)

### **New Publication: Disease Management Roadmap for Small Acreage Growers**

A new [Plant Pathology infographic](#) highlighting key disease management information for small acreage growers is now available. This one-page graphic includes general management tips from planning to the end of the growing season. While directed towards vegetable production, this information could be applied to other annual crops grown in Kentucky, either commercially or in residential plantings. Disease Management Roadmap for Small Acreage Growers (PPFS-GEN-25-IG) is available online in [portrait](#) and [landscape](#) orientations.

### **Urban Agriculture Courses Available Free Online**

From NCAT: The Cornell Small Farms Program's Urban Ag project announced that [four new online courses](#) are available on the promise of urban agriculture. The courses for commercial urban agriculturists, city planners, and policymakers are Deciding Where to Farm in the City, Urban Farm Planning and Management, Urban Farming by Community Nonprofits, and Urban Agriculture Skills for Planners. Access to these courses is free until January 31, 2025, thanks to an introductory enrollment offer.

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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