



BearFruit & Grow Field Day on July 29

Join OAK on July 29 from 9 am - 12 pm ET for an engaging Farmer Field Day at BearFruit & Grow in Louisville, KY. Gather with fellow farmers, growers and ag professionals to hear from LeTicia Marshall, who started a 15-bed urban garden and youth education program in 2020 and now stewards four acres in south Louisville along the banks of Pond Creek. Join us to tour this urban farm, explore conservation practices and hear from partnering agricultural professionals through exciting presentations and activities. Together we will:

- Learn about small-scale conservation practices on an urban farm
- Observe creekside plantings that offer water protection and soil stabilization
- Explore how biodiversity of plants and animals supports self-sufficiency and market offerings
- Engage in activities that highlight soil testing and healthy soil practices
- Join conservation professionals to learn conservation practices and programs for urban and small farms

This is a FREE event and registration is required. Click below!

Register for the BearFruit & Grow Field Day

Conference 2026: Share Your Session Proposal by July 23

OAK is now accepting session proposals for the 15th Annual Farming Conference, *Cultivating Connections: Growing Organic Together for 15 Years*, from January 30-31, 2026, in Frankfort. Engaging, informative sessions relevant to Kentucky's farmers, graziers and land stewards interested in organic production or conservation practices are invited; farmers are highly encouraged to propose a session! [Share a proposal now through July 23, 2025.](#)

OAK also invites partner organizations and businesses to join the January event as sponsors. This annual farmer-focused gathering would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, partners and funders, especially with current federal funding uncertainties. [Learn more and join OAK 2026 as a sponsor.](#)

Explore Session & Sponsorship Opportunities



OAK 2026: CALL FOR PROPOSALS NOW OPEN

SHARE A PROPOSAL

oak-ky.org/session-proposals

Get Involved in Local Ag Decision-Making

2025 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections Open Until August 1st

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking ballots for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) [county and urban county committee elections](#) from all eligible agricultural producers and private landowners across the country. Elections are occurring in certain Local Administrative Areas for these **committee members who make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally**. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA - and OAK - encourage all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office. Producers and landowners must return ballots to [their local FSA county office](#) or have their ballots postmarked by August 1, 2025, for those ballots to be counted. [Learn more here](#)

Upcoming In-Person Events

Third Thursday Thing: Cattle and Poultry

July 17, 2025, 10 am - 2 pm ET

Frankfort, KY, at Kentucky State University's (KYSU) Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm

The Third Thursday Thing is a monthly sustainable agriculture workshop targeting small farmers, beginning farmers and agricultural professionals. The goal of The Third Thursday Thing is to improve the sustainability of agriculture on Kentucky's small, limited-resource, women-operated and minority farms. Lunch is provided. Join in person or view recordings on [YouTube](#). To receive updates on this monthly, free farmer-focused gathering, join the KYSU Small Farms Programming email list: email Savanna Miller at: savanna.miller@ksu.edu. [The July 2025 event is on Facebook here](#).

Woodland Owners Field Day

July 19, 2025 - Whitley County

August 16 - Pendleton County

As part of the **2025 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course**, this is one of two in-person events that complement the recordings of multiple topic webinars, including:

- Why and How to Manage Your Woodlands and Tree Identification
- Woodlands Management in Kentucky

- Woodlands and Water Quality
- Wildlife Management in Kentucky
- Woodland Health
- Woodland Owner-related Organization and Programs

Attend one in-person event, including: lunch, clipboard binder, and reference resources, and gain access to all recordings via registration for \$30 (one person) or \$45 (two people). [Learn more and register for the short course.](#)

Transitioning to Organic Berry Farm Tour

July 19, 2025, 10 am - 12 pm ET

Shady Oaks Farm, 5790 Manilla Creek Rd., Poca, West Virginia 25159

Part of the 2025 OEFFA Farm Tour and Workshop Series, tour this blueberry, daffodil and u-pick berry farm that's in transition to organic certification. [Learn more and register for this free tour.](#)

Twilight Farm Tour

July 22, 2025, 6 - 8 pm ET

University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm, Lexington, KY.

Join this walking tour of the projects and activities happening in the fields, high tunnels, and greenhouses of [UK South Farm](#). University specialists, staff, and students will discuss cider apple production, novel blueberry varieties, coffee roasting, soil solarization, greenhouse tomato trellising, eggplant pest control, and much more! (Rain date: July 24, 2025.) [Register for the free event.](#)

Kentucky Farm Succession Seminar: Building the Bridge to Your Farm's Future

July 23, 2025 8 am to 4:30 pm CT

Owensboro, KY

With support from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, the Kentucky Farm Succession Seminar will bring national, state and local experts to help farm families prepare for the future and handle challenges in sustaining the farm business and protecting valuable farmland. [Learn more and register online.](#)

Free Workshop: Wings on the Land: A Day of Learning with Poultry

August 1, 2025, 11 am – 3 pm ET

Laurel County African American Heritage Center Demonstration Farm

170 Riley Dr., East Bernstadt, Kentucky

From NCAT: "This free workshop will cover key topics including poultry health, housing and infrastructure options, and ecological approaches to pasture-based systems. Whether you're just getting started or looking to improve your existing setup, you'll gain insights from experienced educators, researchers, and farmers. We'll break for a community-style BBQ lunch, with plenty of time for networking, discussion, and Q&A."

Registration is not required. View [NCAT's event website](#) and [email Mike Lewis](#) for more information.

Farmer-to-Farmer Organic Grain Field Day

August 6, 2025, 8 am - 4 pm ET

Kokomo, Indiana

Join the Indiana Organic Network for this free farmer-led, farmer-focused organic field crops event at Rex Stites Farms. Hear from multiple organic row crop farmers and view mechanical weed control equipment in action. [Learn more and register online.](#)

Register NOW! KY Mechanical Weed Control Field Day

September 23, 2025

UK Horticulture Research Farm, Lexington, KY

See a variety of small to large equipment used for specialty crop weed control at the UK Horticulture Research Farm! OAK is a cohost of this event. Learn more and [register today.](#)

Upcoming Virtual Events

Tax Education Webinar for Agricultural Enterprises and Small Businesses

TODAY! July 15, 2025, 1-3pm ET

Join the United States Department of Agriculture, Internal Revenue Service and Small Business Administration to bring tax related matters impacting small and mid-sized businesses, including agricultural enterprises (farms and ranches). [Register here](#).

Models of Community Resilience

July 16, 2 pm ET

“Resilience” is a word we often hear in conversations about community strength and survival—especially in rural places where resources may be stretched. While resilience is sometimes forged in the aftermath of a crisis, it can also be cultivated proactively. Join Rural Assembly for a panel to learn about programs that support strong rural communities in Washington, Arizona, and Minnesota. [Learn more and register online](#).

Free Beginning Farmer and Rancher (BFR) Webinar: Building Your Bench

July 16, 2025, at 3 pm ET

New to farming? Want to learn how to start a farm? USDA offers dedicated help to beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA considers anyone who has operated a farm or ranch for less than ten years to be a beginning farmer or rancher.

USDA can help you get started or grow your operation through a variety of programs and services, from farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance. [Register for the Zoom event online](#).

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.

- Jul 17, 2025 01:00 PM ET - Route Viability and GIS
- 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

[Register for the Zoom webinar series](#). Register once and attend any events in the series.

Tech in Organic Row Crops

July 22, 1-2 pm ET

Technology is fundamentally changing how organic crops are grown, and the pace of new tools available to farmers is only increasing. New technologies can be a game-changer, but what are they really capable of, and as they constantly improve - when should farmers jump in and invest? In this episode the [Organic Agronomy Training Service](#) speaks with expert practitioners who are using the latest versions of camera-guided hitches, weeding robots, and drones. They'll discuss the current uses and capabilities and what is on the horizon. Join this free webinar to get some new ideas, expand your horizon, and see what the future (and present) holds! [Register for the free Zoom event](#).

Save the Date: National Organic Coalition Hosts Virtual TOPP Gatherings

July 23, 12 - 2 pm ET

NOC is excited to convene two virtual TOPP gatherings on July 9 and 23 to help elevate key outcomes, spotlight opportunities, and strengthen our collective objectives moving forward as the Transition to

Organic Partnership Program winds down. The second of two virtual gatherings is July 23: Communicating TOPP's Impact to highlight the tangible successes of TOPP and equip partners to tell the story of its impact effectively. [Learn more on the NOC's website.](#)

The State of Organic Rice: Barriers, Insights, and Opportunities webinar

July 30, 1 pm ET

Join The Organic Center for an engaging webinar sharing key findings from a national study on the state of U.S. organic rice. Despite rising consumer demand and growing interest from farmers, domestic production of organic rice continues to fall short. [Register here.](#)

Farmer Peer Discussion Series

August 11 - Organic & Other Certifications, 12:30 - 1:30 pm ET

From the Midwest Vegetable Growers (MVEG) and FairShare CSA Coalition: "These are casual chat spaces, with light facilitation provided for you to share your own experiences & hear about others' issues -- think of it as a "lunch & learn" & join the calls over lunchtime. Here are our preset topics, subject to change based on what we're hearing in the field & what you want to talk about each month." [Register for the final discussion in the series on August 11.](#)

Educational and Farming Support

View ongoing funding opportunities for farmers on [OAK's webpage.](#)

Agroforestry Business Accelerator: Apply now

Applications are due by or before July 25, 2025.

The [Agroforestry Coalition](#) is partnering with the Food Finance Institute (FFI) to launch an agroforestry business accelerator program! The [Agroforestry Fellows Program](#) (modeled off of the successful [FFI Food Fellows Program](#)) will support nascent and growing agroforestry brands and processing businesses, from seed (or sapling) to shelf.

- If you are growing agroforestry crops as a food ingredient and/or want to turn them into a value added product like a juice, snack product, frozen item, or any other consumer packaged good (CPG) brand – we want to help you get there!
- If you are already operating an agroforestry brand (value-added product) and are looking to scale – join us to meet and learn from industry experts!
- If you help agroforestry products come to market as a food brand who purchases agroforestry ingredients, a processor who transforms the state of an agroforestry item – or anywhere in between – if you help grow agroforestry brands this program could be for you!

[Apply for this free program today!](#)

Kentucky State University Small Farm Assistance

Next Deadline: August 1

[KSU's Small Farm Grant Program](#) helps farmers who want to improve their farming operations and marketability of their products through value-added enterprises.

Kentucky State University Survey on the Future of Agriculture

Kentucky State University invites input from farmers using organic production practices and small-scale farmers so they can tailor their services, programming and financial assistance to better serve these farming audiences. Click the links below to learn more and contribute.

- Organic and conventional farmers in Kentucky: Share 15 minutes of valuable perspectives in [this survey](#) on the future of agriculture:
 - Current organic farming practices
 - Key challenges and research needs
 - Practical ideas for improvement
 - Market trends you're seeing
 - Your perspective as a farmer in today's landscape
- "Economic viability of agrivoltaics to small-scale farmers in Kentucky: A cost-benefit analysis and barriers to adoption" looks at the possible challenges that may hinder farmers from using agrivoltaics, a farming method that combines solar panels with growing crops or raising animals. The questions will ask about farm characteristics, prior knowledge about solar panels on the farm (agrivoltaics), views on farm productivity and climate change and basic demographic information. [The questionnaire](#) should take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

Farmer Examples Wanted: How do Organic Practices Help YOU Adapt to Climate Extremes?

- **Farmers - OFRF and OAK want to hear from you!** The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) understands that organic practices like diversified systems or cover crops can help to mitigate the effects of climate change by building resilience or increasing water holding capacity. But they want to know what this looks like ON YOUR FARM.
- **Have you been hit with extreme drought? Flooding? High temperatures? Increased pest pressure?** We know it can be rough out there, but are there ways that the organic practices you're implementing on your farm are softening the blow? Let us know! [Email communications@ofrf.org](#) (and copy jenny@oak-ky.org) to let us know how your farm is using organic methods to adapt to climate change.

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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