



OAK Field Notes - May 2026



Meet the Farmer: Mac Stone

Mac Stone has spent decades educating organic farmers and growing the organic farming industry in Kentucky. Mac farms with his wife, Ann Bell Stone, and the Bell family at Elmwood Stock Farm in Scott County. The 100% certified organic, sixth-generation family farm produces vegetables, fruits, pantry items, pasture-raised poultry and pork and grass-fed, grass-finished beef and lamb. They sell their products through workplace community supported agriculture (CSA) programs (with [KYFSC](#)), an expansive community CSA, on-farm and online stores, wholesale accounts and restaurants. Mac oversees the poultry and sheep flocks, sells at farmers markets (weekly for more than 25 years!) and leads [farm tours](#) to share organic farming principles with the community.

Mac also served the OAK community as a board member and board chair for many years. He was recently awarded OAK's first *Organic Farmers Award* alongside Ann and her brother, John Bell.

Get to Know Mac

Now Hiring: Help Grow Kentucky's Local Food Movement 

OAK is seeking an organized and creative part-time CSA Program Coordinator to bolster the Kentucky Farm Share Coalition (KYFSC), a dynamic workplace wellness initiative connecting Kentuckians with fresh, locally grown food. This program strengthens community supported agriculture (CSA), expands access to healthy produce and supports farmers in building sustainable, thriving businesses.

The Coordinator will support outreach, marketing and program administration to elevate the reach and impact of KYFSC. They will collaborate with farmers, employers and community partners to champion the value of local food systems across Kentucky! **Applications due by May 26.**

[Apply Today](#)



Come Work With Us!

CSA Program Coordinator

Apply by May 26

Integrating Organic Poultry and Sheep - June 1 Field Day



OAK's upcoming Farmer Field Day at Elmwood Stock Farm in Scott County, will feature the expertise of Mac Stone, who will share what he has learned over decades of managing hair sheep, broad-breasted turkeys, Narragansett heritage turkeys, broiler chickens and laying hens on 25 acres.

The Field Day will cover grazing and farm management strategies, marketing considerations, species-specific considerations, financial aspects of multi-species integration and more.

(Mac encourages farmer attendees to bring maps or diagrams of their farm fields for consideration/discussion.)

[Register Today](#)

Join this August Field Day & Level Up Your Farm Tools

OAK and the University of Kentucky's Center for Crop Diversification are hosting the *Appropriate Technology Field Day: Seeding and Transplanting Systems for Various Scales* at the UK Horticulture Farm in Lexington on **August 25, 2026**.

This event will feature educational sessions, field demonstrations and a trade show. Attendees will see transplant production systems in the on-farm greenhouse and walk-behind and tractor-mounted seeding and transplanting tools in the field. With ample opportunity to observe equipment up close and in action, farmers can compare options and try various tools to enhance their own operations.

Level up your knowledge on the new tools and equipment available to optimize your system! Mark your calendar and [register now](#).



Farmers Lead the Way: Soil Health Project Gains Momentum



We're thrilled to announce that OAK's 2026 [Soil Health Project](#) farmer cohort is officially full and making great strides!

Over half of participating farmers have completed FARM Tool assessments, measuring whole farm sustainability and serving as the foundation for technical assistance (TA). Now, they are engaged in dynamic whole farm resilience planning with TA staff, with spring farm visits well underway, and soil sampling results rolling in. These milestones wouldn't be possible without OAK's participating farmers, whose thoughtful feedback and commitment to whole farm resilience have been instrumental in relaunching the project.

Follow along by signing up for "Soil Health Project Updates" [here](#).

Save the Date for OAK's 2027 Conference!

Mark your calendars: the 16th Annual OAK Conference will be January 29-30, 2027, in Cave City, Kentucky! OAK is thrilled to host the 2027 OAK Conference, *Seeds to Systems: Organic Innovation*, featuring two days of sessions on organic production, markets, livestock, on-farm research and more - plus networking opportunities and a trade show.

More information to come. Email questions or ideas to conference@oak-ky.org.

Can't wait for January? The 2026 OAK Conference session recordings are now available to the public! Check them out on OAK's website and [YouTube channel](#).



Latest News

KHC Offers KY GreenWorks - Reimbursing farmers for training and gear

This opportunity is part of the KY GreenWorks Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the WORC (Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities) initiative. The Kentucky Horticulture Council is working to support green industry professionals in building skills, earning certifications, and staying safe on the job.

Covered expenses include:

- Educational meeting or short-course registration
- Travel to and from an eligible training
- Arborist, turf/golf, or pesticide certifications
- Safety gear purchases

[Find out more about this program here.](#)

In-Person Events Throughout the Region

Cattle and Sheep Silvopasture

May 12, 5pm ET, Clay County

At Old Homeplace Farm, Will and Maggie Bowling combine wildlife management expertise with forage-focused livestock farming to create enhanced production models incorporating silvopasture and other intriguing techniques. Their thriving southeastern Kentucky farm produces vegetables and meats, selling direct to consumers as well as through wholesale outlets. [Find out more and register here.](#)

8th Annual Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit

May 13-14, 2026, at the University of Kentucky and Fasig-Tipton.

This year's Summit will bring together local food systems professionals, farmers, chefs, and community advocates for a robust program featuring pre-Summit tracks, dynamic breakout sessions, farm tours, hands-on cooking experiences, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen Kentucky's local food economy and build lasting connections. [Find out more and register here.](#)

High Tunnel Field Day at Old Homeplace Farm

May 22, 9 am until 12, Clay County

Join Community Farm Alliance & Kentucky Horticulture Council for a High Tunnel-focused Field Day at Old Homeplace Farm. Maggie will be sharing how she manages high tunnel crop rotation & succession planting, cover cropping, and more to fulfill the customer demands from restaurants, online sales, and our May - Thanksgiving CSA. This event is great for new growers and experienced growers alike! This event is free, but registration is required. Register here-

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxDJmLJaOnlqdkAi8-laWbqsrzECivjsiEjv7nE-wvpyUEQ/viewform>

2026 Electric Fencing School

June 11, 2026, 8 am until 2pm ET, Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm, Frankfort, KY.

This program is designed for producers and agriculture professionals to learn the proper use and maintenance of electric fencing equipment. Join us for a day filled with electricity! Find out more and [register here](#).

Virtual Events

Sheep in the Orchard: Grazing, Soil Health, and Food Safety in Organic Tree Nut Systems

May 27, 2026 1:00 PM ET

The Organic Center, in collaboration with researchers from UC Davis and UC Riverside, invites you to explore innovative research on integrating sheep grazing into organic tree nut orchards.

[This webinar](#) will highlight ongoing field trials across California and share practical, science-based insights into how grazing systems can support organic production.

Find Funding
Opportunities Here

Find Farming Resources
Here

Search OAK's Find-a-Farm
Directory

Your tax-deductible gift helps germinate,
cultivate and activate a resilient

food and farming network.

Donate

Join us! The organic farming network in Kentucky
is growing. Together we are creating a more
regenerative and organic food system.

Renew your OAK Membership

Organic Association of Kentucky
PO Box 22244, Lexington, KY 40522
e: info@oak-ky.org | p: 1.502.219.7378

Follow Along:

