



## OAK Field Notes - April 2026



### Organic Farmers Take to Capitol Hill to Advocate for Critical Funding

In early March, organic farmers from 19 states gathered in Washington, D.C. for the [Organic Farmers Association](#) Farmer Fly-In, holding more than 80 meetings with House and Senate offices. Brooke Gentile, OAK's Executive Director and Bryce Baymann, organic farmer and OAK Board Member, joined to advocate for the needs of organic agriculture and farmers across the nation.

One key priority was to highlight how USDA staffing shortages and funding cuts have been affecting day-to-day farm operations. Additionally, the group requested the release of funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), which many farmers are still awaiting. More broadly, farmers urged lawmakers to support stronger conservation programs, improved organic data collection and greater market transparency, all key tools for keeping small farms viable.

The group also met with leaders from the USDA National Organic Program, the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture Committee and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure FY 2027 Appropriations and the next Farm Bill deliver for organic producers and rural communities. *Photo credit to the [Organic Farmers Association](#).*

Sign up for Policy Updates



## Meet the Farmer: Angela Magney

A community-building sentiment is at the center of Angela's farming journey and philosophy, from her years of market support with farms in Georgia and her current family farm, [Magney Legacy Ridge Farm](#), outside Princeton, Kentucky.

For more than a decade, Angela has worked to connect with West Kentucky farmers engaged in direct-to-consumer sales for support and collaboration, understanding that no farmer can "do it alone." Magney Legacy Ridge Farm has grown into a collective, multi-farm initiative to co-market local farm products through Angela's online store, home delivery and community supported agriculture (CSA) shares. Join OAK at Angela's farm in May (see next article)!

Get to Know Angela

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## May 9 Field Day at Magney Legacy Ridge Farm

[Magney Legacy Ridge Farm](#) in Lyon County serves 11 counties of western Kentucky with two acres of organically-grown produce through an online farmers market, community supported agriculture (CSA) shares and a growing regional farmer collective.

In partnership with the [Kentucky Horticulture Council \(KHC\)](#), this OAK Field Day will highlight produce safety, post-harvest handling/storage, packshed design and production in four high tunnels, a greenhouse and crop beds. KHC will share resources available to Kentucky farms for produce safety and on-farm water management.

Register Today



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## Check out OAK's Full 2026 Field Day Schedule!



Spanning across the state with seven farmer-focused events, this year's OAK Field Days offer invaluable opportunities to explore a diverse array of organic farming practices and soil-building innovations.

For farmers and land stewards just getting started with farming and conservation, for growers exploring new strategies or a transition to organic practices and for food system professionals connecting with farmers and regenerative practices, these Field Days cover essential topics to support the journey! Join us in Caldwell, Harrison, Franklin, Rockcastle, Fleming and Fayette counties in 2026!

[Learn More and Register Today](#)

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## On-Farm Conservation Funding For Kentuckians

### ~Apply By April 17~

Grow Appalachia has been awarded a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project in partnership with OAK and USDA NRCS-KY to support on-farm conservation across Kentucky.

The project will provide over \$3.5 million in financial assistance over five years for practices like cover cropping, riparian buffers and water systems, and Grow Appalachia and OAK will offer technical assistance to farmers. **The current application batching deadline is April 17, 2026; apply through [your local NRCS office](#).** Applications are accepted year-round.

Kentucky farmers, complete an [interest form](#) for help with your application/implementation, and OAK staff can support you through the process.



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## The OAK Directory is Buzzing this Spring!



OAK staff are excited to launch a multi-year effort to enhance OAK's [Find-a-Farm Directory](#), made possible by a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

The directory connects consumers with Kentucky farms and local foods! This project will enhance the tool's functionality and support marketing efforts to expand its reach across the state.

Do you have farm products to promote to customers in Kentucky? OAK Family Farm members and above receive a directory listing as a benefit for their ongoing support of the OAK community. Join today or renew your membership and reach more Kentucky customers. Contact Robin for more details at [robin@oak-ky.org](mailto:robin@oak-ky.org).

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## Welcome Holly, Leading OAK's Soil Health Project

Say a virtual hello to Holly Stanley, OAK's newest staff and the Soil Health Project Manager for OAK's FARM Kentucky: Farmers Advancing Resilient Markets project!

Holly previously worked alongside farmers, supporting agricultural projects and natural resource management as director of her regional Conservation District. Her background includes research on field amendments to improve soil health and water conservation, with an emphasis on turning data into practical tools for farmers. Holly is excited to support Kentucky farmers in building resilient operations and strengthening market opportunities through regenerative and organic soil health practices. Reach out at [holly.stanley@oak-ky.org](mailto:holly.stanley@oak-ky.org)!



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## Digging In: Soil Health Activities Taking Root Across KY



OAK staff are thrilled to launch on-the-ground work with producers across Kentucky through OAK's Advancing Markets for Producers project, FARM Kentucky. Project staff received an overwhelming number of applications, and this year's cohort is nearly finalized.

The project provides financial incentives, hands-on technical assistance and whole-farm resilience planning to help farmers strengthen conservation practices and expand market opportunities, while highlighting the ecological benefits of their work.

If you are interested in participating in a future cohort, complete the Farm Interest Form on the Soil Health Project webpage.

[Learn More](#)

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## In-Person Events Throughout the Region

### **The Food Connection Spring First Friday Series**

Friday, April 3, at 7:30 AM (Eastern) at the Learning Kitchen at The 90

April's conversation will bring together leaders from across the food system to explore regenerative agriculture, sustainable sourcing, and regional food economies. The event is free to attend, but registration is requested to help us plan for food and seating.

Save your spot here: [https://qualtricsxmsznw83h4p.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6thkfliuVcEIQ7Q](https://qualtricsxmsznw83h4p.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6thkfliuVcEIQ7Q)

### **State of the Black Food Summit**

Louisville, KY

April 4, 8 am - 5pm ET

The State of the Black Food Summit brings growers, cooks, organizers, and neighbors together to talk honestly about Black food systems—land, labor, access, and power.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/state-of-the-black-food-summit>

### **Kentucky State University Small Farm Conference**

April 11-12, 2026 ET, Whitley County Extension, Williamsburg, Ky

[Find out more and register for this free event here.](#)

### **Salamander Springs Farm off-grid water pumping workshop & demonstration**

April 18, 9 AM - 4:30 PM ET

Come learn to install and use an affordable technology that harnesses the sun's energy for reliable water distribution from spring and rainwater catchments, ponds or streams. This workshop will cover the critical steps in connecting a small DC pump and a pressure tank to solar electric, supply lines from water catchment and outflow to point of use, filtering water, dry-run protection, and more.

For details and registration, see the Salamander Springs Farm website WORKSHOPS page [salamandersprings.wixsite.com/farm/workshops](https://salamandersprings.wixsite.com/farm/workshops) or email Sandra

at [salamanderspringsfarm@gmail.com](mailto:salamanderspringsfarm@gmail.com)

### **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.](#)

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## Virtual Events

### **Socioecological Resilience for Organic Farms Webinar**

April 8, 2026

Join the Organic Seed Alliance for a webinar discussing how agroecological practices can help us increase socio-ecological resilience. This event is for farmers, gardeners, and organic seed enthusiasts who want to learn about principles and practices to increase farm resilience.

[https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xtAwWXycQZW8iwtNLz34GA#/registration](https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xtAwWXycQZW8iwtNLz34GA#/registration)

### **2026 Organic Seed Production Online Course**

**Applications due by April 10th.**

Are you passionate about sustainable agriculture and seed preservation? Organic Seed Alliance is excited to announce the 2026 Organic Seed Production Online Course, beginning in Spring 2026. This comprehensive, interactive, and cohort-based program is designed to provide in-depth training for aspiring organic seed producers. Course begins May 2026.

<https://seedalliance.org/organic-seed-production-online-course>

### **Grow Your Sales with SNAP and SNAP Kentucky Double Dollars**

First Session: April 20 at 6 PM ET

The SNAP Cohort is a free webinar series for Kentucky farm stands and farmers markets interested in accepting SNAP. This is the first of three sessions in a yearlong cohort, where you'll also receive hands-on technical assistance and connect with peers working toward the same goals.

Register here: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/e08b6c0de5fb58548b61af9eabe65626?r=use1>

### **TOPP Virtual Buyer–Seller Mixer: Feed-grade Grains Corn & Soybeans**

April 23, Registration closes on April 13

An online event for organic buyers and sellers - think online speed dating to support expansion of the U.S. organic supply chain! Participants are any business (buyers) sourcing U.S.-grown feed-grade ingredients and products, and any farmer/producer of U.S.-grown organic or transitional feed-grade ingredients and products (sellers). Open to anyone in the U.S.!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9DLRPY9>

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Here

Search OAK's Find-a-Farm  
Directory

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is growing. Together we are creating a more  
regenerative and organic food system.

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