



OAK Field Notes - March 2026



Celebrating the Abundance of CSA

Thank you for supporting the 7th annual Kentucky Proud CSA Week this February! Together, OAK and fellow organizers spotlighted **78 Kentucky farms offering diverse CSA subscriptions** with flexible payment plans and convenient pickup locations for households across the state. *Community supported agriculture* (CSA) is a weekly farm subscription box that makes it easy to enjoy a wide range of locally-grown products, including produce, meats, eggs, mushrooms, flowers and value-added goods. When community members join a CSA, they directly invest in local agriculture, helping sustain family farms and strengthen Kentucky's food economy.

We're proud to collaborate with partners statewide to raise awareness about the benefits of the CSA model. Through this campaign, OAK reached more than **49,000 people** through paid advertising, shared resources with **12,000 members** in the [CSA in KY Facebook Group](#), co-hosted a CSA Week webinar and promoted the [Partner Farm Guide](#), which received over **1,000 clicks**. As spring approaches, we look forward to a growing season full of opportunities to support local farms! Find your CSA today.



Another Win for OAK's Organic Transition Program

OAK's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) equips farmers for transitioning to organic through activities like conducting a mock organic inspection - reviewing inputs, production practices and compliance standards on an operation. Recently, OAK staff conducted a mock organic crop inspection at Amazing Mushroom Farm Inc. in Fayette County with farmer Michael Jones. The inspection offered practical feedback and strengthened the farm's readiness for formal review!

Raised on a dairy farm and later a manufacturing business owner, Michael brings agricultural roots and systems expertise to his carefully managed indoor mushroom operation. Amazing Mushroom Farm uses science-based practices to foster soil in controlled growing environments, while maintaining strong recordkeeping and a clear commitment to organic integrity.

Since working with OAK, Michael successfully completed his official organic inspection, positioning Amazing Mushroom Farm to market its products as USDA Certified Organic. OAK is proud to support farmers like Michael. Learn about OAK's Organic Transition Program [here](#) and let the OAK Team help you achieve organic certification.

Webinar Summary and Resources: Conservation for Organic and Organically-Managed Farms

OAK's February webinar highlighted USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) services and programs for organic, organic-transitioning and organically-managed farms in Kentucky. Kentucky farmer Joseph Monroe ([Valley Spirit Farm](#), Henry Co) shared his journey working with NRCS for more than a decade to improve his 100% grass-fed cattle operation, tailoring conservation practices (pollinators, wildlife habitat and more) that support the farm in reaching production and conservation goals.

Find the webinar recording and resources write-up on [OAK's Conservation webpage](#).

This event is supported by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Building Relationships with Technical Assistance Providers



Farmers and aspiring farmers, [check out](#) Sarah's write-up in the latest issue of [Growing For Market](#).

“Collateral benefit. Farming is multidisciplinary, and no single person will have every answer you need. Many TA providers are generalists. Rather than possessing all knowledge, a great TA provider has access to a diverse network of experts and specialists. Their job is to help you find the best possible advice from the smartest people on the topic.”

Farmers, take advantage of OAK's TA resources. [Reach out for free production technical assistance!](#)

Don't forget, OAK members get a 30% discount on *Growing for Market*; [check it out!](#)

Getting Ready for Spring? Add an OAK Membership to Your Checklist

Spring is a busy and thrilling time in Kentucky. When the weather allows, farmers are in the fields, ready to raise food for their communities. Markets are gearing up for peak growing season, and the OAK Team is working hard to support and promote all of this and more in the food and farming community.

OAK membership helps power OAK's programs!

Not only will it build a more nourishing local food and farming system, but your membership also comes with *discounts* at OAK events and with input suppliers throughout the year. If you have any questions or want to talk more about OAK memberships, please email robin@oak-ky.org.

Join OAK Today



In-Person Events Throughout the Region

Kentucky Black Farmers Conference 2026

March 6-8, Clark & Madison Counties

Join the Kentucky Black Farmers Association and Community Farm Alliance at the 2026 Kentucky Black Farmers Conference for a powerful gathering centered on collective care, shared knowledge, and long-term sustainability. Guided by the theme “We Got Us: Rooted in Community. Ready for What’s Next,” the conference will feature hands-on workshops, farmer-led sessions, and expert panels focused on resilience, land stewardship, business continuity, succession planning, and navigating evolving systems that impact our farms and foodways. [Learn more and register here.](#)

KSU Third Thursday Thing: Harvesting Grant Opportunities

March 19 at 10 AM EST, Franklin County

Join the Kentucky Center for Agiculture and Rural Development (KCARD) at the Kentucky State University (KSU) Third Thursday Thing to gain practical tools and make connections that can help you successfully pursue grant funding. This session will provide guidance on business planning, financials, applying for grants, and opportunities to network with technical assistance providers.

Location: Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

Registration not required. For more information, contact savanna.miller@kysu.edu.

Hands-on Workshop/Workday: Planting Trees on Contour Lines

March 20, 8AM to 6PM, Menifee County

Join this Kentucky farm's workday with trees and training provided by Contour Lines USA.

<https://treeplantingcontourlinesmar20.eventbrite.com>

Learn more and apply for your own tree-planting grant at <https://contourlines.org/usa/>.

Virtual Events

Webinar: Plant & Crop Homeopathy Q&A

March 4 at 2:30 PM ET

Researcher Charlotte Southall and farmer Pat Aherne present their experiences on the application and outcomes of using homeopathy for

crops and answer your questions.

<https://learning.wholehealthag.org/crop-homeopathy-q-a>

H-2A and Your Ag Business: Legal and Ethical ConsiderationsShare

March 5, 9am - 10:30am CST

Gather with your farm community for shared learning and discussion and walk away from this session with a better understanding of the H-2A visa program's legal and ethical landscape.

[Find out more and register here.](#)

2026 Market Garden & Small Vegetable Farm Day

March 16, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This event offers a full day of practical, research-based education tailored to market gardeners and small-scale vegetable growers. Find out more and register for this hybrid event here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/registration-is-open-for-the-2026-market-garden-small-vegetable-farm-day>

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.

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

Donate

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:

