



OAK Field Notes - December 2025



OAK Conference 2026: Early-Bird Registration Ends December 15!

Now is the time to register for OAK Conference, January 30-31, 2026, in Frankfort. Receive an early-bird discount on conference registration through December 15 at 11:59 pm. Check out the [full agenda](#) and [meet the fantastic speakers](#) on OAK's website, and start getting excited for an engaging and informative two days together!

It's also a great time to book a hotel room for the conference! [View details about OAK's discounted hotel blocks](#), one of which expires December 30.

Also, please be aware of spam emails! Conference organizers will not contact you offering to distribute or sell attendee contact information. If you receive questionable emails about this conference, please let us know at conference@oak-ky.org.

Register Now



Celebrating the Strength of Healthy Food Partnerships

Entering the holiday season, OAK staff are grateful for the amazing farmers and employer partners who help us strengthen Kentucky's food system. This year, OAK's workplace Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, the [Kentucky Farm Share Coalition](#) (KYFSC), partnered with 19 employers organizations and 12 CSA farms, reaching more than 1,100 participants and delivering more than **22,000 boxes of fresh, nutrient-dense food** to Kentuckians as a health benefit.

"Both new and current employees are consistently as appreciative of the ability to participate in the program as we are to continue to offer it. It is a wonderful way to connect with our staff and ag community." - Faye Baron, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Moreover, the KYFSC generated more than **\$750,000** for Kentucky farmers through vegetable box subscription (CSA) sales. This level of impact is only possible with employers, farmers and CSA members all playing a vital role in building a healthier Kentucky.

Conservation Tip: Considerations for Cover Crops

During your fall-winter planning for next year, check out [Cover Crop Termination for Small Farmers and Gardeners](#) by the Marion County (Indiana) Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This document explores a variety of ways to kill or terminate your cover crop. Additional resources include Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)'s [Cover Crops for Sustainable Crop Production](#), [Managing Cover Crops Profitably](#), and [Building Soils for Better Crops](#). University of Kentucky Extension also published [Covers Under Cover: Managing Cover Crops in High Tunnels](#).

Want to learn more about cover cropping or on-farm conservation practices? Reach out to OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator Mad Marchal.



Plan for Conservation Today!

Support Local Farms and Food Systems this Holiday Season



Support your local farmers and farm businesses throughout the winter! Stay cozy and know that you are nourishing yourself, the local food system and the regional economy with each purchase. This is a great time to use OAK's online searchable [Find-a-Farm Directory](#).

It's easy to find a farm and support Kentucky farmers. Keep your purchases local and impactful this season.

Did you know all OAK Members at the Family Farming level or above are eligible for a listing on this searchable, online directory. If you are interested reach out to robin@oak-ky.org and she can work with you to spread the word about your farm and farm products.

Search the Find-a-Farm Directory

OAK Membership, the gift that gives all year long

Do you know what makes another great gift? An annual OAK Membership! Treat yourself or a friend to a whole year of information, inspiration and member benefits.

OAK Members receive:

- Discounted registration for OAK's Annual Conference
- Discounted registration for Farmer Field Days and Community Events
- Participation in OAK's Annual Meeting
- Free listings on OAK's Classifieds Page
- Discounts from industry partners for excellent-quality goods and services

If you have let your membership lapse or have never taken the plunge to join OAK, now is the time!



Join OAK Today

In-Person Events Throughout the Region

2026 Ohio State Organic Grains Conference

January 7, 2026 - January 8, 2026

Sandusky, Ohio

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, United States

The 4th annual Ohio State Organic Grains Conference will be at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Sandusky, Ohio. The conference offers programming for experienced organic growers, growers transitioning to or considering organic, and consultants or educators who support these growers. Registration includes two days of educational programming and opportunities to network with organic farmers in the region, as well as speakers and trade show vendors. Learn more and register at <https://offer.osu.edu/organic-grains-2026>

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

January 11-13, 2026

Bowling Green, Kentucky

This two-day meeting is devoted to fruit, vegetable and cut flower production, handling, harvesting, marketing, storage and related topics. Approximately 500 growers, researchers and technical service providers attend the Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference each year. The 2026 conference will be held at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, KY. Learn more and register via the link below. <https://kyhortcouncil.org/2026-kentucky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>

Virtual Events

Virtual Buyer-Seller Mixer for Organic Feedstuffs

December 10. 12-3pm ET

Do you grow and sell feed-grade ingredients or products? Looking to find new business partners to buy U.S. grown feed-grade ingredients?

Join the Organic Trade Association and partners for the first-ever Virtual Buyer-Seller Mixer on December

10, 2025 as a part of the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP).

Find out more and register here:

<https://www.organictransition.org/region/northeast-mid-atlantic/events/>

Simplifying the Paperwork: Recordkeeping Strategies for Organic Farmers

December 10, 2025, 2:00 PM 3:30 PM ET

Join the National Organic Coalition over Zoom for a virtual interactive session that will put the focus on farmers, creating space to share firsthand experiences and practical strategies for streamlining recordkeeping and reducing the stress of compliance.

Learn more and register: <https://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/events/2025/11/11/simplifying-the-paperwork-recordkeeping-strategies-for-organic-farmers>

Kentucky Budget 101 for Food Advocates

Wednesday, December 17 from 10-11am(ET)

This one-hour training will provide an impactful overview of state budget advocacy, specifically for food advocates. We will cover critical details like legislative timelines and processes and practical tools for effective budget advocacy. Participants will leave prepared to engage with KFAN in effective advocacy for SNAP, senior meals and other funding priorities during the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/3d-k3LSCQI2c8slYIB1Njg#/registration>

Planning Your Farm Transition

Join This Winter 2026 Online Course to Begin Farm Transition Planning Today

Are you a farm family or landowner thinking about the future or next steps for your farm?

Are you interested in planning for the next generation of farmers on your land?

Do you have a spouse/partner helping to make these decisions? Are you both on the same page?

Are you ready to begin the planning process but don't know where to start?

JOIN IN: Online Tuesdays — January 27 to March 10, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/transition2026/>

FACT's Educate-a-Farmer webinar series

December 9, 2025; [Taking your animals across the finish line](#)

January 6, 2025; [So, You Want to be a Farmer](#)

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

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