



Farmer Field Days Begin in March!

Register today to join these farmer-to-farmer conversations.

We're creating this year's schedule of **monthly on-farm and farmer-focused field day events** with you in mind! From low-cost infrastructure to Food Safety to pastured livestock and more to come, we'll bring topics into the field and gather farmers and ag professionals to build skills, community, and success for our Kentucky farms and farmers. Join us!

Developing a Farm Food Safety Plan - Stop Running the Risk!

w/ Bryan Brady, The Food Connection at UK

Virtual Events on Zoom: March 21, 2023, 10-11am ET and March 28, 2023, 6-7:30pm ET

Growing Under Cover on a Market Vegetable Farm

Pavel's Garden -- Crestwood, KY -- April 13, 2023, 1-4 pm ET

Pastured Livestock for Soil Health

Faul Family Riverside Farm -- Sulphur, KY -- May 9, 2023, 1-4pm ET

Register for Field Days TODAY

OAK Member Updates

OAK Members, we can't wait to see you at OAK's Annual Member Meeting. Join fellow OAK Members, connect with the OAK Board and Staff and be inspired with the greater OAK Community at this annual opportunity to gather virtually. [Register today for OAK's Annual Member Meeting](#): March 2, 2023, 5:30-7pm, online.



OAK Member Reminders:

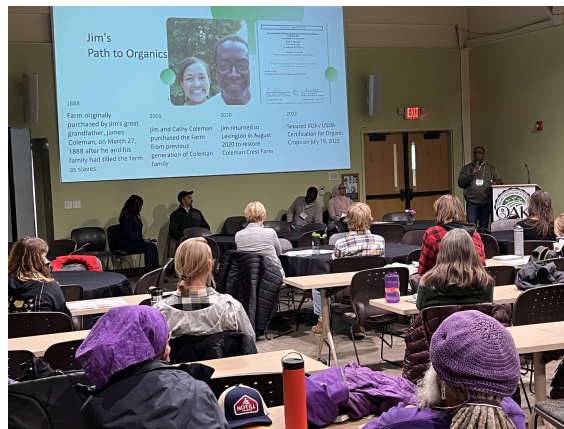
- Take a few minutes to complete **this year's [Annual Member Survey](#)**... this feedback is essential to improving our programs and tailoring the future of OAK!
- **Vote for OAK's Board of Directors** candidates today! (**Deadline: TODAY, February 15!** Check your inbox for details)
- And don't forget to use your [member discounts](#) when ordering those farm supplies for 2023!

Not Yet A Member? Join OAK Today!

The OAK community is an engaging group of farmers, eaters, ag professionals, entrepreneurs and more! From farmers who are using regenerative practices to those whose farms have been certified organic for decades, we are committed to creating a healthier, more nourishing food landscape.

Join or Renew TODAY

#OAK2023 Recordings and Resources Coming Soon!



OAK is grateful for the collective energy that created a great annual conference last month in Frankfort - thank you! We're compiling the final presentations, handouts, and recordings and will share that website link with registered participants within the week!

Catch up on archives of our virtual farmer and consumer education events on our [OAK YouTube page](#) for recordings, snapshots, and lessons learned from host farmers. Have suggestions or ideas for future speakers, farms, practices or topics to highlight? [Let OAK know](#).

2023 KY Proud CSA Week

Join us next week for the KY Proud CSA Week, February 20 - 24. This week of CSA awareness-building will feature over 70 CSA farms across the state and help Kentucky consumers learn more about CSAs, how to find one, and what to do with their farm share. Join the [CSA in KY Facebook Group](#) to follow along with this promotion! Contact [Katie](#), OAK's CSA Program Coordinator with any questions.



Join OAK at These Partner Events

KSU's Third Thursday - Organic Agriculture

TOMORROW, February 16, 2023 - 10am - 3pm ET

Livestreamed at youtube.com/kysuag/live or **in-person** at Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln, Frankfort, KY 40601

Third Thursday Thing is Kentucky State University Land Grant Program's monthly sustainable agriculture workshop, covering a wide variety of topics throughout the year.

February's focus is Organic Agriculture and features a packed agenda, including

- Overview of Small Scale Farm Grant Program - Joni Nelson, Kentucky State University
- Current research and extension highlights of the KSU Organic Program – Shawn Lucas, Kentucky State University
- Organics in Kentucky: Growing the Practices, Connecting Farmers and Creating Opportunities – *Brooke Gentile, Executive Director, Organic Association of Kentucky*
- Kentucky Horticulture Council: priorities and programs for specialty crop growers? – Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Kentucky Horticulture Council
- Introduction to Whole Farm Planning. - Andy Pressman & Mike Lewis, National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Free Statewide Irrigation Water Testing Labs -Lets Grow Safe. – Dr. Avinash Tope, Kentucky State University
- The Relevance of George Washington Carver to the Organic Farming Movement - Jim Embry, Sustainable Communities Network; Atrus Ballew Farm
- History and Vision: An Overview of TurnerBrooks Farm - Eymlin Brooks & Tony Brooks, TurnerBrooks Farm
- A visit to the KSU High Tunnel Complex, Discussion on season extension, - Shawn Lucas & Linelle Rivera Rodriguez, Kentucky State University

Third Thursday Thing's goal is to improve the sustainability of agriculture on Kentucky's small, limited-resource, female, and minority farms. Workshops are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except December). **Lunch is included in this event; no registration required.** Details and contact information [here](#)

2023 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference and Grower-Buyer Meetup

Eastern KY Farmer Conference

February 24-25, 2023

Pine Mountain State Park, Pineville, KY

Join this farmer gathering for 2 days of sessions, workshops, story sharing and meeting with resource providers. Friday night's agenda includes dinner and dancing. See the [agenda and register here](#). Questions about the Event? Contact CFA's Central Kentucky Local Food Coordinator, Laurie White, at laurie@cfaky.org Stop by the OAK table and say hi to OAK's Farmer Education Coordinator, Jenny Howard Owen.

Eastern KY Grower-Buyer MeetUp

February 24, 2023

Pine Mountain State Park, Pineville, KY

Check-in for this pre-Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference event starts at 9:30 a.m., with buyer introductions beginning promptly at 10 a.m. and wrapping up by noon. Opportunities for selling Kentucky-grown ag products are increasing, and finding the best buyer match is important for a profitable relationship. This Grower-Buyer MeetUp will be the single largest event bringing together buyers and agricultural food producers, and is co-hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Kentucky Horticulture Council and UK MarketReady, with the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, and the Kentucky State Horticultural Society.

The event is free, but you must [pre-register here](#)

2023 Kentucky Black Farmers Conference

March 3-4, 2023

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY

Hosted by Community Farm Alliance and Black Soil: Our Better Nature, this annual gathering offers networking opportunities and breakout sessions around Policy, Peer-to-Peer conversations, and Marketing and Business Development! [Learn more and register today](#) Stop by the OAK table and say hi to OAK's Membership and Communications Coordinator, Robin Verson.

Knob Hill Farm Field Day - with NRCS-Kentucky


March 15, 2023, 8:30am - 2:30pm Central Time

Knob Hill Farm, Breckenridge County KY

Hosted by Keith McKenzie of Knob Hill Farm, this event is the first of three NRCS Field Days in this series and will offer farm demonstrations, local and state resources from USDA; soil test and rain simulator demonstrations and more. Morning coffee and donuts and lunch are provided. [Register here](#) for this free event.

USDA - National Resource Conservation Service

MICHAEL ZACHARY, OUTREACH COORDINATOR
THREE-PART FIELD DAYS SERIES
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM CENTRAL STANDARD TIME



KNOB HILL FARM

Part 1: Farm Service Agent (FSA)

Socially Disadvantage

Part 2: National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Developing a Conservation Plan?

Part 3: Working With Risk Management Agent

Why do I need a Risk Management Plan



KNOB HILL FARM
BRECKENRIDGE CO
FIELD DAY

FIELD DAY AGENDA

TIME IS CENTRAL

FARM DEMONSTRATIONS

8:30 AM: REGISTRATION

9:00 AM: FARM DEMO #1

10:00 AM: FARM DEMO #2

11:00 AM: LUNCH

12 NOON: FARM SERVICE AGENT
LOCAL SERVICES

1:00 PM: SOIL TEST RAIN
SIMULATOR DEMO

2:00 PM MY ACTION STEPS
WORKSHEET

2:30 PM CLOSING REMARKS
MICHAEL ZACHARY

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:
TONYA SMITH AND NRCS

Farm	Location	Date
Knob Hill	Breckenridge	3/15/2023
JoJuana Greene	Lexington	6/22/2023
TBA	TBA	TBA

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

keith.mckenzie1@aol.com
Coffee and Donuts During Registration
Lunch Provided

Knob Hill Farm
575 Driscoway
Hudson KY, 40145
(502) 541-9051

OUR SPONSORS



Not-to-Miss Opportunities

BIPOC Farmer Mini Grants

Applications are due February 28, 2023

Organic Farmers Association and the Rodale Institute partner on an annual micro-grant program specifically targeted to support any U.S. small-scale Black, Indigenous, and other farmer of color who is currently organic or wishes to pursue the transition process to become organic. Any student/intern/apprentice involved in an organic operation is eligible to apply for these funds. Requests up to \$2,000 will be considered for funding. [APPLY HERE](#)

Local Food for Schools Grant Program

Register before February 28, 2023

Attention KY Farmers: The Local Food for Schools (LFS) grant program from the USDA will bring over \$3 million to Kentucky schools to purchase KY-grown and produced food into the cafeteria! The LFS funds must be spent by April 2024, so now is the time to build relationships with your local school! Learn about the funding opportunity and how to sell to the participating schools and meet food service directors in your area by attending a March training hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. [Register here](#)

Now Recruiting Herb Farmers

Take action before February 28, 2023

The Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub is now recruiting medicinal herb producers to meet growing demand. Located in Duffield, VA the Herb Hub has been helping farmers process and market high quality, sustainably grown herbs to premium priced markets since 2017. [Learn more here](#)

Check out the [2023 Current Herb Hub Demand listing sheet](#)

If an herb producer is able to produce these items for processing at the Herb Hub to the specs and toward the quantities listed please contact ASD's Procurement Manager [Robin Suggs](#) ASAP. He requests bids in by February 28 at the latest for the items listed.

If you have any questions or want to know more about Herb Hub markets, resources, tools, or services, contact Robin Suggs, or Herb Hub Associate [Shannon Joyce](#)

Educational & Farming Support

Upcoming Events

Katahdin Sheep for Silvopasture

February 20, 3pm ET

From [Food Animal Concerns Trust \(FACT\)](#): This webinar will feature several farmers speaking on their experience with Katahdin sheep and recommendations for starting your own silvopasture flock successfully. Panelists include Steve Gabriel, farmer and consultant with Wellspring Forest Farm and author of SILVOPASTURE, and Alex Caskey of Barred Owl Brook Farm. [Register here](#)

USDA Webinar on Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule (SOE) Rule

February 21, 2023, 1pm ET

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) will hold an informational webinar to provide an overview of the SOE rule's changes and how they will affect organic farms and businesses.

Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600422854>

Or join by phone

US: +1-669-254-5252 or +1-646-828-7666 or +1-415-449-4000
or +1-646-964-1167 or +1-669-216-1590 or +1-551-285-1373

From The National Organic Coalition (NOC):

The Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule (SOE) is now published in its final form with an implementation date of March 19, 2024. This massive rewrite of the organic regulations implements significant changes to tackle fraud in organic supply chains plus new requirements for additional organic handlers and brokers to become certified as organic. NOC strongly supports the rule and advocated forcefully for its completion - producers' livelihoods depend on strong and consistent enforcement of organic regulations.

The rule will impact certification agencies, inspectors, producers, processors, some retailers, and uncertified brokers, traders, and exporters/importers.

You can read [the final rule](#), this [USDA Fact Sheet](#), and check out [USDA's side-by-side comparison](#) that shows the changes that the SOE rule makes to the organic regulations. You can read additional information on the [USDA website here](#).

Ecosystem Services of Solar-Pollinator Habitat

February 21, 2023 1pm ET

Join the AgriSolar Clearinghouse team for this event in their webinar series! In this webinar, Lee Walston from Argonne National Laboratory discusses the ecosystem services of solar-pollinator habitat. Attendance is free and recordings will be posted in the [AgriSolar Clearinghouse](#).

[Click here to register.](#)

Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation: A Biological Approach to Manage Specialty Crop Soilborne Pests and Pathogens

February 21, 2023 2pm ET

This eOrganic webinar will provide a general overview of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) as a biological solution for the management of soilborne pests and pathogens in specialty crops. Attendees will learn:

- how the ASD approach proposed today was developed;
- the principles and main mechanisms involved in ASD pest and pathogen suppression; and
- how ASD is applied.

Results of research conducted in Florida and Pennsylvania on sustainable and organic specialty crops will be presented. [Register here](#)

Exploring Health and Safety for Black Farmers: Racism, Land Access, Mental Health, and Resources

February 23, 2023 1pm

The number of Black farmers in the United States has declined over the last century. One hundred years ago, farmers identifying as Black or mixed race made up about 14 percent of total ag producers. According to a 2017 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) census, of the 3.4 million farmers across the country, 1.3%, or only 45,508, are Black compared to 95% Caucasian. This webinar from [AgriSafe Network](#) will address significant challenges of black, mixed race, and BIPOC ag producers in the United States, programs to address racism and build equity, identify critical concerns in health and safety, including mental health, and share community-based resources for rural residents, growers, farmers, farmworkers, and owner/operators.

Intended Audience: Health and safety professionals, rural health providers, and those with a commitment to sustaining diversity in agriculture. [Register here](#)

Silvopasture - What It Is and What It Is Not

February 28, 2023 2pm ET

Join this webinar to learn about USDA-NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 381, Silvopasture, and how it is used by NRCS. Experts will describe in detail what is Silvopasture and what it is not and discuss the key steps and considerations in the establishment and maintenance of a Silvopasture System.

Presenter(s): William Byrum, Forester, USDA NRCS East National Technology Support Center, Greensboro, NC - and Katherine MacFarland, USDA National Agroforestry Center, Burlington, Vermont

[Learn more here](#)

Five Steps to Protect Your Farm, Legally Speaking

February 28, 2023 3pm ET

From [Food Animal Concerns Trust \(FACT\)](#): Are there a few key steps that provide a big impact when it comes to the farm or ranch's protection from legal risks? We're so glad you asked! Yes, there are, and every farm or ranch, no matter its size, location, or longevity, is in a great position to build resilience. Join this FACT webinar that will build knowledge and confidence around essential farm law issues.

Led by staff from [Farm Commons](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering farmers to solve their own business law challenges in a community of support. Their website includes a robust library of farm law print guides, podcasts, video tutorials, checklists and more. [Register here](#)

Getting Started with Farm and Ranch Transfer

February 28, 2023, 3pm ET

Join NCAT's Felicia Bell and LyTanya Brown for a free, online workshop. Learn how to identify key steps of a transfer process; clarify your values, vision, and goals; name key people involved in your transfer; assess needs and assets of the parties involved; and describe ways to strengthen key relationships. [Register here](#)

Growing Hope: Practical Tools for a Changing Climate

Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 28-March 16

Join National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)'s third annual national conference! This free virtual convening will feature renowned speakers and showcase farm stories that make the connection between our changing climate, healthy soils, and farm productivity and resilience.

From NCAT: We will hear from producers who have come to understand the centrality of carbon to agroecosystems. We will hear from farmers and ranchers who are producing food, fiber, and fuel in ways that restore and maintain landscape health and mitigate greenhouse gases. We will share stories of people coming together to support each other in challenging times.

We will leave you with an understanding of climate beneficial agriculture and actions you can take on your own land to make your farm and your local community resilient in the long term.

Each Tuesday session will last for three hours, and each Thursday session is two hours with an optional networking after-session.

Find all the details about speakers and topics for each session [at this website](#).

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA): PSA Grower Training Course

In-person: March 7, 2023 Louisville, KY

Registration is limited to 30 people on a first-come-first-serve basis - [register here](#)

Fruit and vegetables growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), co-management, and the proposed FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule would benefit greatly from this training. Additionally, any growers who would like to meet the proposed Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in §112.22 (c): "At least one supervisor from the farm must complete food safety training at least equivalent to the standardized curriculum recognized by the FDA." Note: Completion of this course is a regulatory requirement for all Kentucky fruit and vegetable growers with over \$25,000 in yearly sales and those growers seeking a Qualified Exemption. [More info here](#)

Training materials, trainer fees, and certification through AFDO upon successful completion of the training are covered by University of Kentucky, Food Systems Innovation Center CAP grant in partnership with Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Resources for Farmers

Commercial Strawberry Grower Survey

Do you grow strawberries commercially? If so, the University of Kentucky Extension Specialists need your help! In order to determine future priorities and grower needs for disease, insect, and weed management, more information about the current challenges that growers face is needed. Information can be submitted through a [survey available here](#). The survey is quick and takes approximately 5 to 7 minutes to

complete. All submissions are anonymous. Responses to this survey will assist in the development of new resources and trainings for growers.

Developing a Values-Based Vision for your Farm

As farm businesses grow and your management team faces decisions with significant impact - for example, what type and how many employees to hire - it is important that you have a clear sense of the undergirding values you and your management team identify to guide the growth of your business.

[The Developing a Values-Based Vision for Your Farm workbook](#) helps producers examine their skills, interests, beliefs, expectations, obstacles and strengths to set a holistic vision for their farming operations. The answers to these questions will guide the decisions and direct the choices you make in growing your business.

USDA Nationwide Survey for Prospective Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Managers

Take [this very important survey](#) by March 31, 2023!

This voluntary, anonymous survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and asks about your general views and interactions with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies delivered by farm programs: Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA). All farmers, ranchers and forest managers are encouraged to take the survey. Existing customers and prospective customers both provide unique perspectives they'd like to hear. They'd especially like to hear from a new audience this year of prospective customers, those who don't know about USDA farm programs or have yet to work with them, and those who were unable to participate in the past.

New SARE Videos: Managing Weeds in Organic Row Crops

Farmers have long relied on herbicides to control weeds in row cropping systems. But as consumer preferences change, many farmers are seeking to eliminate or reduce their use of synthetic herbicides where possible. Managing weeds without herbicides can be daunting, and it requires producers to understand the biology and behavior of problem weeds in order to develop control strategies that exploit their weaknesses. In [two new videos from SARE](#), Charlie Johnson shares how he and his family control weeds on 1,600 acres of organic corn and soybeans in Madison S.D. These are the first in a series of new SARE videos featuring farmers who use ecological strategies to control weeds without herbicides.

New Tomato and Pepper Virus Detected in Kentucky

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV, tobamovirus) is a new virus that has been sporadically detected across the U.S. and in Kentucky. ToBRFV was first identified in Israel in 2014 and confirmed in the U.S. in 2018. It was first confirmed in Kentucky in 2022. The virus was eradicated in all U.S. cases. [More info here](#)

Survey on Childcare on your Farm

Researchers at the National Farm Medicine Center and The Ohio State University are looking for farmers and ranchers who are raising children aged 0 to 18 to participate in [an online survey](#). The survey asks about families' experiences taking care of children while also working on and off the farm/ranch. The survey is open to part-time and full-time farmers, ranchers, and their partners operating in rural, urban, or suburban areas. Participants have the option to enter a raffle for one of fifty \$50 checks. This research is important for addressing some of the unique challenges women and other farmers with children are facing throughout the country. Be a part of it by filling it out or sharing with a farmer friend with children.

UK launches Food as Health Alliance

The [Food as Health Alliance](#) at the University of Kentucky seeks to bring together clinical and community research spanning across agriculture, food, and health to address food insecurity and diet-related chronic disease. Specifically, researchers, clinicians, community partners, food commodity producers, healthcare partners, and students will explore innovative strategies to improve patient clinical outcomes and the health of Kentuckians.



Stay in touch:

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

Follow Along:

