

## **OAK Returns from The Hill**





OAK's Executive Director, Brooke Gentile, traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this month urging Congress to take up climate action in the next Farm Bill and proclaiming that organic practices are a win for Kentucky farmers. Brooke serves on the Organic Farmers Association (OFA) Governing Council. Together with the OFA Policy Council and farmers from across the country, a group of over 25 people met with members of Congress and USDA staff through 50 meetings in 2 days. The group seized opportunities to share stories from farmers that illustrated why organic priorities need to be present in the Farm Bill. In Washington D.C. these farmers and food systems changemakers joined others for the Farmers for Climate: Rally for Resilience organized by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), Heal Food Alliance and many other organizations and advocates. Read about the rally here.



#### Farm Bill 2023

The federal Farm Bill is reauthorized by Congress roughly once every five years. The current Farm Bill expires in September 2023. This means that we have a twice-in-adecade opportunity to advocate for a new Farm Bill that invests in environmental conservation, advances food justice, and confronts climate change. This legislation has an enormous impact on farmers' livelihoods and how the U.S. food system operates. The Farm Bill influences who farms and where, what production methods farmers use, and how profitable farm businesses are across farming and food systems. The Farm Bill also influences who can access nutrition assistance, the safety of our air and water, and the stability of rural jobs and economies.

Curious to learn more about all twelve titles in the Farm Bill and what they include? Read about the Farm Bill in this overview from NSAC <u>here</u> or watch <u>this</u> recorded webinar from Community Farm Alliance (CFA) to gain an understanding of the Farm Bill "big picture" and the breakdown of Farm Bill titles.

Interested in reading up on organic and sustainable agriculture priorities for the Farm Bill?

Organic Farmers Alliance (OFA) Farm Bill priorities <a href="here">here</a>.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) Farm Bill Priorities <a href="here">here</a>.

Share your Farm Bill priorities with OAK <a href="here">here</a>.

Has your farm or community benefited from any of the following Farm Bill programs?

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Working Lands programs, such as: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Farm Service Agency loans, such as: Direct Farm Ownership loans or Ownership or Operating Microloans
- Local Agriculture Market Program such as Value-added producer grants or Local Food Promotion Program, Farmers Market Promotion Program and Regional Food Systems Partnership
- Nutrition Assistance programs, such as: SNAP or Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Rural Energy for America program
- SARE research grants
- And so much more! If you've participated in a mentorship program, research project, or regional food system initiative, there's a chance funding for that program can be traced back to the Farm Bill!

The Farm Bill hasn't been perfect, **and** we have an opportunity to advocate for the programs that can support small farms and our local food systems.

#### Take Action!

Tell Congress how the 2023 Farm Bill can support a more equitable and sustainable future. The U.S. House Agriculture Committee and the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee are gathering feedback about how the current Farm Bill is (or isn't) working.

Share your insights and recommendations by the end of March through these online forms:

<u>2023 Farm Bill Feedback | House Agriculture Committee</u> (note that organic practices largely fall under: Title II - Conservation and Title X - Horticulture)

<u>Farm Bill Input | Senate Committee On Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry</u>

# **Farmer Field Days Start Next Week!**

### Join us Tuesday to Create Your Farm's Food Safety Plan



#### Do any of these describe you?

- Farmer wanting to reduce their customers' risks of foodborne illness;
- Farmer interested in getting fresh produce into food service, institutional, or retail markets;
- Farmer who has completed the FSMA food safety training and actively considering a third party farm food safety certification, such as GAP;
- Farmer interested in learning from other farmers and food safety experts.

If so, register today for our two-part March workshop!

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

w/ Bryan Brady, The Food Connection at UK Virtual Events on Zoom.

Part I: March 21, 2023, 10-11am ET Part II: March 28, 2023, 6-7:30pm ET

As most produce farmers and handlers are aware, food safety is a major concern in today's market for fruits and vegetables. No specialty crop farmer wants their customers to be among the statistics for foodborne illness. Protecting your

customers requires a commitment to understanding food safety risks in your operation, and to implementing effective practices to control those risks.

In the first session, we will learn the content and structure of a farm food safety plan from Bryan Brady (UK's Food Connection). This will include common policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), risk assessments, recordkeeping, and corrective actions. For the second session, Bryan will provide food safety plan templates and log sheets and explore how they can be designed to fit your unique operation in order to reduce risks, minimize costs, and improve efficiency.

Register Now!

### **Register for Upcoming Farmer Field Days**

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

Integrating Sustainability in a Solar Farmhouse and Organic Market Garden
Cedar Ring Greens -- Frankfort, KY -- June 20 2023, 1-4pm ET

Register TODAY

### Save the Date for These Farmer Field Days

Restoring the Family Farm with Organic Production
Coleman Crest Farm -- Lexington, KY -- July 25, 2023, 9am-12pm ET

CSA Production, Packing and Planning
Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm -- Covington, KY -- September 19, 2023, 1-4pm 2023

Details and registration coming soon!

**Great Partner Field Day at Knob Hill Farm** 



OAK members, Keith and Cathy McKenzie of Knob Hill Farm recently held a Field Day in Breckenridge County in partnership with Tonya Smith and NRCS-Kentucky. This event featured conservation strategies to use on the farm and information about NRCS programs. Attendees participated in a hands-on fencing demonstration and observed the cover crop and soil health rain simulator. Spring bed preparation was discussed, farmers talked about soil health and connected about innovations on their farms.

The sun was shining and the conversations were great. OAK shared the SARE publication *Building Soils for Better Crops*, now in its 4th edition, it is packed with useful information. Have you read it? Grab a free PDF version <a href="here">here</a>.

### **OAK Members in the News**

OAK Member and **Farmer of Old Homeplace Farm, Maggie Bowling**, wins the 2023 Outstanding Farmer Peer Award at the Eastern Kentucky Farmers Conference. Congrats, Maggie!

# 2023 Outstanding Farmer Peer Award



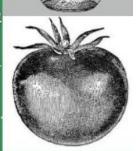


Maggie Bowling, Old Homeplace Farm

Farmers have a lot on the plate just keeping the farm going.

Sometimes, farmers go above and beyond being an example of how to farm and become a mentor to others, sharing what has helped them be successful and being open about their struggles

This is a peer-nominated award, so this is who you see as a leader in farming in our region.



#### **OAK Member Reminders:**

Remember to use your <u>member discounts</u> 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

# **OAK Staff Presenting at Local Food Systems Summit**

#### **Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit, March 29th**

OAK's Research Coordinator, Annie Woods, will present at the summit during a session titled, "Trialing a Global Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool in Kentucky." Join OAK at this amazing event!

At the University of Kentucky's Kroger Field in Lexington. Hosted by The Food Connection at UK, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and

the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Early-bird registration is \$75 per person and ends Jan. 15. Regular registration is \$95 per person. Registration includes all sessions, parking, a locally sourced Kentucky Proud lunch, breaks and a networking reception. For a complete agenda, visit the main summit site at: <a href="https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/kentucky-local-food-systems-summit">https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/kentucky-local-food-systems-summit</a>.

To register, visit <a href="https://whova.com/portal/registration/klfss\_202303/">https://whova.com/portal/registration/klfss\_202303/</a>. For information about scholarships, contact Potter Wright at <a href="mailto:ashtonpotterwright@uky.edu">ashtonpotterwright@uky.edu</a>

#### Add Your Ad!

OAK has just unrolled another **Member Benefit**, a classifieds page!

Do you need to advertise that piece of farm equipment that no longer serves you? Are you looking for employees for the season ahead? OAK Members can place any number of appropriate listings on the **Classified Page** - for free. Anyone can view listings!

Use this submission form and let OAK help you spread the word. Please consider this an opportunity and submit a Classified listing now!

Submit an Ad Here

## **Interested in Going Organic?**

OAK is here to help - for FREE! OAK's Transition Trainers will answer all your questions and work with you to refine techniques, implement best practices, demystify the regulations, develop recordkeeping systems and make a transition plan to help you apply for organic certification. Email us to learn more about process and how we help farmers have a successful certification experience.



Learn more about OAK's Transition Trainer Program and apply to work with an Organic Transition Trainer today!

Questions? Contact brooke@oak-ky.org or 502-219-7378.

## **Join OAK at These Partner Events**

# Kentucky Farm to School Network's Bringing the Farm to School: Producer Training Program at Morehead State

Monday, **March 20, 2023**, 2 PM – 6 PM ET 25 MSU Drive, Morehead, KY

The Farm to School market can provide producers with another market channel to diversify their sales opportunities while also providing nutritious local food to KY school children. New funding is coming to KY schools - Local Food for Schools - which will provide over \$3 million total to be spent on local foods by April 2024. Now is a great time for farmers to approach their local food service director(s) to build a sales relationship!

This training will teach farmers how to approach a food service director, the ins-and-outs of selling to schools, what products are generally most suitable for the school market, and more.

This event will take place on Monday, Mar. 20, from 2-6pm at the Morehead State University Derrickson Agricultural Complex in the Arena Classrooms (25 MSU Dr., Morehead, KY 40351).

Register by visiting this Eventbrite link -

https://www.eventbrite.com/.../bringing-the-farm-to... Questions? Contact the KY Farm to School Network at <a href="mailto:KYF2Snetwork@gmail.com">KYF2Snetwork@gmail.com</a> or Dr. Skidmore (MSU) at <a href="mailto:a.skidmore@moreheadstate.edu">a.skidmore@moreheadstate.edu</a>

# KY Horticulture Council's Sustainable Ag Webinar with No-Till Growers' Jackson Rolett

Thursday, **March 23, 2023**, 6:30PM ET

The Kentucky Horticulture Council, Organic Association of Kentucky, and UK Center for Crop Diversification invite you to a sustainable ag webinar with special guest Jackson Rolett from No-Till Growers on March 23, 2023 at 6:30pm ET/5:30pm CT. Jackson will teach us about the practical implications of appropriate or no-tillage, cover cropping, and mulching in small-scale market gardens. He might even throw in a little bit about how soil biology plays a part, just for fun! Register by visiting this Eventbrite link -

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-ag-webinar-with-no-till-growers-jackson-rolett-tickets-528427539997

# UK Cooperative Extension's High Tunnel Production Basics for Beginning Farmers Training Series

March 23, 2023 - Webinar 1 March 30, 2023 - Webinar 2 April 12, 2023 - Central Kentu

April 12, 2023 - Central Kentucky In-Person Training April 25, 2023 - Eastern Kentucky In-Person Training

This is a two-part webinar series followed by an in-person training. Webinar 1 will be presented by UK Extension Specialists Rachel Rudolph and Jonathan Larson and will discuss structures, site selection, and production basics, and pest management in a high tunnel system. Webinar 2 will be presented by UK Extension Specialists Nicole Gauthier and Shawn Wright and will cover disease and weed management. Webinars are free; pre-registration is required and attendance at both webinars is required in order to attend one of the hands-on workshops (locations to be announced). Register at:

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_55ByFf1llwoaCTs

# UK CAFE's Mental Health in the Ag and Farming Community March 28, 2023 - 10 am to 4 pm. ET

Helen King Alumni Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY Hosted by the UK CAFE Office of Diversity, this event is the 5th annual Intercultural Awareness Day. Centered on mental health in the agriculture and farming community, the program will be keynoted by Dr. Cheryl Witt from the University of Louisville, host a farmer panel, and engage attendees in the agricultural community with QPR for farmers and farm families delivered by the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention (SCAHIP). Intercultural Awareness Day was established to celebrate the cultural differences in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and community.

The event is free and open to the public.

Questions can be directed to Dr. Kendriana Price, kendriana.price@uky.edu Registration Link: <a href="https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_eWfZiRoJEB08Cx0">https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_eWfZiRoJEB08Cx0</a>

### KY Horticulture Council's Soil Health Webinar with Dr. Shawn Lucas

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6:30PM ET

Join us on Tuesday, April 4th at 6:30 pm ET/5:30pm CT for a Soil Health Webinar with Kentucky State University's Dr. Shawn Lucas. He will talk to us about soil health and some sustainable practices we can implement to improve and maintain the health of our soil.

Register by visiting this Eventbrite link - <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soil-health-webinar-with-dr-shawn-lucas-tickets-579328245377">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soil-health-webinar-with-dr-shawn-lucas-tickets-579328245377</a>

# **Not-to-Miss Opportunities**

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

### Applications are due March 31, 2023

USDA Announces March 31, 2023, Application Cutoff for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) *Including Dedicated Funding for Organic Producers* 

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky has announced a funding opportunity for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Kentucky NRCS has just over \$6.5 million to obligate to new CSP contracts, including a minimum of \$200,000 specifically for organic producers.

The deadline for Kentucky CSP applications to be considered for funding during this federal fiscal year is March 31, 2023. Through CSP, conventional and organic agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for expanding conservation activities while maintaining agricultural production on their land. Conservation activities include practices such as cover crops, pest management, and pollinator habitat. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers must submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline to ensure their applications are considered for 2023 funding.

"The Conservation Stewardship Program is a great tool for organic producers to improve conservation efforts on their operation," said Casey Schrader, Acting NRCS Kentucky State Conservationist. "Many of the offered conservation activities help to address organic producer concerns such as improving soil health and attracting pollinators to improve crop production."

For additional information about CSP, contact your local USDA service center.

# NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreements

#### Applications are due April 27, 2023

The primary goal of this outreach opportunity is for the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in collaboration with partners, to expand conservation assistance to historically underserved producers and underserved communities and to provide opportunities for students to pursue careers in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.

Projects should support outreach activities that encourage diverse and inclusive participation in

NRCS programs and introduce conservation planning and climate smart practices to protect

farmland ecosystems, watersheds, and wildlife habitat in geographical areas of underserved

communities ranging from rural agriculture to urban and small acreage producers.

Eligible applicants may propose projects that engage historically underserved producers and

underserved communities equitably and offer access to opportunities through outreach

activities that:

- Promote NRCS programs through education about, or demonstration of, conservation practices;
- Develop community conservation partnerships that encourage historically underserved producers to plan and protect farmland ecosystems, watersheds, and wildlife habitat in geographical areas of underserved communities;
- Inform small scale or urban agriculture producers about participation in conservation programs;
- Support education on, planning for, and adoption of conservation practices that are climate smart.

Read more about this funding opportunity here:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/partner-with-us/outreach-and-partnerships/equity-in-conservation-cooperative-agreements-2023

## **Latest News & Calls to Action**

# USDA Nationwide Survey for Prospective Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Managers

Take this <u>very important survey</u> 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.

# USDA Announces Sign-up for Cost-Share Assistance for On-Farm Grain Storage in Areas with Limited Commercial Capacity Due to Severe Storms

Last week USDA announced that Kentucky producers in counties affected by the December 2021 tornadoes, among other states affected by eligible disaster events, can apply for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Grain Storage Facility Assistance Program (EGSFP). An initial allocation of \$20 million in cost-share assistance is available to agricultural producers in affected counties impacted by the damage to or destruction of large commercial grain elevators

as a result of natural disasters from Dec. 1, 2021, to Aug. 1, 2022. The application period opens later this month and closes **Dec. 29, 2023**.

For more information visit the <u>program webpage</u> or the <u>EGSFP fact sheet</u>. USDA also has an existing <u>Farm Storage Facility Loan Program</u> that can immediately provide low-interest financing for eligible producers who may not be eligible for EGSFP but are in need of on-farm storage capacity.

#### Reducing Cost by Working Together Survey from Kentucky Orgs.

Are you interested in working with other farms to order a supply in bulk or share another needed resource? Information from the survey below will be compiled to see if there is sufficient interest in pooling certain needs and determine what geographic area these needs are centered. KY Center for Ag and Rural Development, Community Farm Alliance, the Kentucky Horticulture Council, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, and other farming partners will work together to see if there is an efficient way to meet that need and help your farm's bottom line. If there is sufficient interest, we will use your contact information to reach out for next steps, but it will not be used for any other purpose. Take the survey here: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPZ5XT7">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPZ5XT7</a>

# Farmers: Share Your Thoughts on Cover Crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops in an online survey at <a href="bit.ly/CoverCrop23">bit.ly/CoverCrop23</a>. Why do you plant cover crops...or why don't you? What do you want to know? Your insight will help guide research, communications, seed development, and more.

This National Cover Crop Survey is the seventh since 2012 conducted by the USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), with the help of Informa/Farm Progress.

"Since 2012, the National Cover Crop Survey has been extremely valuable in helping guide research priorities, direct communications and education efforts, provide data to researchers, and illustrate the effects of policy on cover crop use and adoption," says Dr. Rob Myers, regional director of extension programs for North Central SARE and director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture. "Data from previous surveys have been used in scientific papers, business planning, extension efforts, media coverage of cover crops, and even included in testimony to Congress."

Please take a few minutes to contribute your voice at <a href="bit.ly/CoverCrop23">bit.ly/CoverCrop23</a>. After completing the questionnaire, you may enter a drawing for one of three \$100 Visa gift cards.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Discovering Resilience Online Workshop**

Farmers: Ever wonder if your farm is at risk because of a lurking legal problem? Do you wish you knew where to turn for the answers?

Those answers aren't always easy to come by — especially for the most innovative, direct-to-consumer farmers. Discovering Resilience is a legal workshop designed just for you. You'll walk away from this five-session, highly interactive, and producer-focused workshop ready to implement your own legal action plan and find legal answers with confidence. Plus, you'll have a group of fellow producers to keep you on track.

Join Farm Commons in learning the 10 best practices of farm legal risk management over 5 weeks.

- March 2: Farm Law as Your Creative Power
- March 9: Organize Your Farm Business for Legal Success
- March 16: Growing a Legally Resilient Workforce
- March 23: Access Farmland with Legal Confidence
- March 30: Diversify Farm Enterprises Without Adding Legal Risk

Each week contains video learning, activities, and reading selections. You'll meet on Thursdays listed above with your instructor to learn more about the law and develop your practical skills. Registration fee required; BIPOC scholarships available. More info here: <a href="https://farmcommons.org/workshops/">https://farmcommons.org/workshops/</a>

#### **Farmer Climate Forums**

Join NOFA-VT and MOFGA for this three-part series discussing water in agriculture. At the registration link you can choose to attend whichever sessions you wish. The first session (March 9) is focused on vegetable producers, the second session (March 16) is focused on livestock producers, and the third session (March 23) is focused on whole-farm water management across production types. Created for farmers in the northeast, the strategies will be applicable to Kentucky farmers as well. Register here: <a href="https://airtable.com/shriYnjukuatyt4Pl">https://airtable.com/shriYnjukuatyt4Pl</a>

#### **Ramp Cultivation Webinar**

Friday, **March 17, 2023** 11 AM | Virtual

Learn about the history, cultivation, and many uses of this important and delicious native plant. Their flavor is unique, often described as a mix between garlic and onion, which is why they're becoming increasingly popular in the commercial culinary industry. Although people, especially those of Appalachia, have been enjoying ramps for centuries. Ramps are typically harvested from wild populations, but can be sustainably cultivated in your forest! <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ramp-cultivation-webinar-tickets-541136071557">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ramp-cultivation-webinar-tickets-541136071557</a>

# Restoring and Maintaining Riparian (Water) Areas in a Grazing System March 20 @ 3pm ET

This session will focus on best practices where grazing systems and waterways interact on the farm. Animals can be a helpful participant in stewarding our water but can also do great harm. Moving earth, planting, and grazing activities must be well planned and coordinated to be beneficial. We will discuss approaches to this practice and resources for more support. Facilitated by FACT and Steve Gabriel, farmer and consultant with <a href="Wellspring Forest Farm">Wellspring Forest Farm</a> and author of <a href="SILVOPASTURE">SILVOPASTURE</a>.

This webinar is a follow-up to a previous FACT webinar with Steve Gabriel called, "Water Management for Pasture Grazing Systems."

Register here: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN-oc3fA66Sfy4iOlpgF51BA">https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN-oc3fA66Sfy4iOlpgF51BA</a>

#### Webinar Invitation - "The Agroforestry Series: Agroforestry and Soil Health"

On behalf of Delta Institute, Savanna Institute and the Liberty Prairie Foundation, you are invited to join our upcoming webinar, "<u>The Agroforestry Series: Agroforestry and Soil Health</u>" on Thursday, **March 23, 2023** at 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada). Agroforestry systems leverage continuous living roots to prevent soil erosion and store water. However, less is known about how these systems - and their management - interact with crucial biological, physical and chemical indicators of Soil Health. This webinar looks beneath the surface of the effects of Agroforestry on Soil Health.

Keynote Speakers: Erik Hagan (Savanna Institute, Spring Green Campus Farm Director.) and Randy Jackson, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor of Grassland Ecology; Grassland 2.0). Please use this <u>link</u> to register.

# Food Solutions New England Offering Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge

Food Solutions New England will host the 9th version of its food system-oriented 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge **April 3-23, 2023**. Join in a shared journey of learning and charting a course of action to dismantle racism in our food system and our world. There is no charge to participate. Learn more and register here: <a href="https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/">https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/</a>

### **Resources for Farmers**

### **On-Farm Composting Toolkit**

This multimedia toolkit provides technical support and training for communityoriented food scrap composting and manure management on farms in rural and small communities throughout the U.S. The goal of this program is to reduce solid waste, avoid water pollution, and increase soil health and farm resiliency. Created by Composting Association of Vermont, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services Solid Waste Management Grant Program and supported by the Project Farmers and members of the Project Steering Committee.

https://www.onfarmcomposting.org/

#### **Nurturing City Soils for Healthy Organic Vegetables Webinar Series**

Urban farming can bring lots of benefits, but soils in cities can be degraded and, in some cases, contaminated. This can make vegetable crops more susceptible to pests and put farmers and consumers at risk. During this webinar series, participants can learn how to determine if their soils are contaminated and what they can do to minimize risks while producing healthy and nutritious organic vegetable crops. They can also learn how to restore degraded soils in cities and quantify whether their efforts are paying off. This webinar series took place in Fall, 2022. All webinars are recorded and available here.

Water Management Planning for Sustainable Production webinar recording Here is the recording of last week's webinar with Dr. Amanda Gumbert about water management plans: <a href="https://youtu.be/n3sbJHgtOqE">https://youtu.be/n3sbJHgtOqE</a>. This video is unlisted, so you will need the link in order to view.

Also, here are the links discussed in the webinar:

CAFE Ag water quality planning website: <a href="https://www.uky.edu/bae/awqp">https://www.uky.edu/bae/awqp</a>

Ag Water Quality Planning Tool:

https://dep.gateway.ky.gov/eForms/Account/Home.aspx

One Good Idea: <a href="https://goodideafarm.org/">https://goodideafarm.org/</a>

#### It's tax season! Let farmers.gov help.

Filing taxes can be challenging, especially if you are new to USDA programs or running a farm business, or if you are trying to forecast your farm's tax bill.

To support farmers and ranchers, USDA is partnering with tax experts from across the country to connect producers to information and resources related to taxes and USDA program payments, including those from the Inflation Reduction Act for distressed borrowers. RSVP for webinars or use the next tax estimator tool. Resources and upcoming webinars <a href="here">here</a>.



### 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:





