

Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Howdy May. Team OAK is thrilled with the opening of our seasonal farmers markets, the first CSA shares filling the fridge, and the lush green that only a Kentucky spring can offer.

May's arrival brings with it the opportunity for in person learning and gathering with OAK's <u>Farmer Field Days</u>. Read on for registration details and a stellar calendar of events.

**OAK Members**, continue reading below for more details about using your OAK Member Benefits including an all new <u>Classifieds Page</u>. **Add your Ad**. As the local market season really ramps up this month, OAK's Spring Directory promotion will unroll. Folks are going to be directed to <u>OAK's Find-a-Farm Directory</u> so plan to get your profile page updated.

As you read about of all of these opportunities, don't forget to check out the resources at the end of this newsletter where you can find new funding programs and an array of both virtual and in-person events.

Team OAK is thrilled to move into another growing season with each of you. Folks centered around food and farming, friends committed to nourishing their communities, all of this alongside the first tastes of our favorite seasonal foods. There is nothing better than eating locally, we know you are each as excited as we are.

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

**Farmer Profile: Andre Faul** 



For Andre Faul and his family, the goal which drives their farming efforts is to provide local, healthy and sustainable food for their community. Starting Faul Family Riverside Farm in 2017 with a flock of meat chickens and a small herd of inherited cattle, they scaled up by adding hogs, laying hens, sheep, saltwater shrimp, and an event barn for on-farm hosting. While the original goal remains the same, the livestock choices and systems have evolved and improved over the years as Andre has learned from the land, his experience, and his customers.

Since 2017, Andre has expanded and diversified his protein sources and markets for his local community, through the LaGrange Farmers Market, a collaborative multi-farm "full-diet" CSA, online sales, and even home deliveries. Sourcing hay from his own land and a neighbor's farm and livestock feed from a local feed mill, he keeps many of his inputs local and continues building efficiency into his systems to reduce inputs even more.

Raising animals on healthy pasture to forage, wallow and graze allows them to maintain the health and wellbeing of their cows, sheep, pigs and poultry. With open-air space to roam, new pastures with fresh forage and non-soiled ground

every few days, and increasingly healthy soil, livestock eat more diverse diets, have less susceptibility to parasites, and graze more broadly. Healthier animals with stronger constitutions mean that Andre rarely needs to administer medications and completely avoids hormones.

The action of grazing animals removing the tops of the plants encourages those plants to develop deeper and larger root systems to survive. These roots in turn feed the soil ecosystem, creating more decomposing matter in the soil and boosting soil fertility. By rotating the grazing area, soil compaction is limited and manure is left behind. The pasture responds with renewed growth, deeper roots and stronger plants, and a richer bank of nutrients and water in the soil. This improved soil health and structure makes the Fauls' pastures more weed resistant and drought tolerant and allows the soil to hold more carbon.

Sustainability is not only in the soil-building and livestock grazing for the Faul family, but also in their production choices and diversification of revenue streams. With an academic degree in marine science, Andre has brought saltwater shrimp onto the farm, working with Kentucky State University's School of Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences to add a shrimp barn with two saltwater tanks holding thousands of shrimps. The Fauls also operate an onfarm event space in their open air barn, hosting weddings, gatherings, and farm dinners to utilize their Henry County farm for public education, agritourism and increased profits.

We'll visit Andre and the Faul Family Riverside Farm for a Farmer Field Day on May 9, 2023, to tour his fields, barns, and systems... don't miss it!

Register Now for OAK'sMay Farmer Field Day a Faul Riverside Farm

**Get out and Vote KY** 



### The 2023 Kentucky primary elections are coming soon.

This year the Democratic and Republican primaries will take place in Kentucky on Tuesday, May 16. There are six constitutional offices on the ballot this year, with races to determine several state-level offices, including Kentucky's next governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, commissioner of agriculture and state treasurer. OAK encourages each of you to inform yourselves on the platforms for each of these candidates in each of these races!

**Register Now for a 2023 OAK Farmer Field Day** 



Check out this year's schedule of monthly on-farm and farmer-focused field day events! From low-cost infrastructure to pastured livestock and so much more, 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!

#### **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 -- June 20, 2023, 1-4pm ET

# Keeping our Balance: Diversified Farming with Steep Hills and Off-Farm Jobs

Hallow Springs Farm-- Mount Vernon, KY--July 6, 2023, 9am-noon ET

### **Restoring the Family Farm with Organic Production**

Coleman Crest Farm -- Lexington -- July 25, 2023, 9am-noon ET

### **CSA Production, Packing and Planning**

Rains and Sun Farm -- Independence -- September 19, 2023, 1-4pm ET

#### More to come!

Farmers, meet up with other farmers and agricultural professionals on working farms to see organic systems in action. Share your successes and your

challenges with peers and connect with useful resource providers. View previous OAK virtual events on our <u>OAK YouTube</u> page for recordings, snapshots and lessons learned from host farmers. Have suggestions or ideas for future farms, practices or topics to highlight? Reach out to <u>Jenny@oak-ky.org</u>

Learn More and Register for 2023 Field Days

# **Current OAK Members:**There is a Brand New Classified Page

OAK's new website offers incredible opportunity for community engagement, flawless interface between your OAK Membership and event registration (don't forget current OAK members get discounted registration to all OAK events). Hot off the press: OAK has just unrolled another Member Only Benefit, a classified 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.

OAK Members Submit a Classified Ad Here

# **Don't Forget Your Member Perks**

Ordering seed? Need more soil amendments or tools? Don't fortget OAK offers Member Benefits from partnering businesses and organizations, like AcresUSA, <u>Johnny's Seeds</u>, <u>Chelsea Green Publishing</u>, <u>Earth Tools</u>. <u>Felco</u>, and more, OAK Members receive product discounts and more! Active Members can now easily access those member discount codes on a newly published <u>Members Only Access page here</u>.

Current OAK Members, don't forget to update <u>your member profile</u>, create new log in information and connect easily and fluidly with each other. If you have any questions about your membership, are struggling to navigate the new site, or just want to touch base, please email <u>Robin@oak-ky.org</u>.



OAK Member Farmers, UPDATE your profile page on the Directory. The OAK Staff is hard at work developing Spring Find-a-Farm Directory promotion. As the local market season really ramps up this month, OAK's Spring Directory promotion will unroll. Folks will be directed to OAK's Find-a-Farm Directory so plan to get your profile page updated. If you have any questions, need help updating your profile, or want to create a new profile as a Family Farm Member, please reach out to Robin@oak-ky.org

# Not a Member? Join OAK Today!

Join or Renew Today!

Join the OAK community! We are 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 folks committed to creating a healthier, more nourishing food landscape.

If you have let your Membership lapse or have never taken the plunge to join OAK, now is the time! OAK is growing and working for an exciting future, join us. Be a part of the community working to nourish Kentucky.

# CSA Chef Demo: Make a Date with Your CSA on May 11th



Farmers, want to help your consumer network get top notch storage and cooking tips for seasonal produce this May? Share this \*VIRTUAL\* CSA Chef demo on May 11th from 12:15-1pm to offer some best practices for a weekly veggie box or items you have at the market. Chef Tanya from The Food Connection will offer quick demos on best storage practices, ways to veggie prep, and what veggies to prioritize first from the fridge. This virtual cooking demonstration is open to all and FREE to attend. Register using the link for this online Zoom event here,

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdO6upj8jEtMaJp6VuJ\_EhePoFazxbLCp

# **Interested in Going Organic?**

We're 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 <u>OAK's Transition Trainer Program and apply to work with an Organic Transition Trainer today!</u>

Questions? Contact <u>brooke@oak-ky.org</u> or 502-219-7378.

# Opportunities, the Latest News & Calls to Action

### Give Brooke and Katie a listen

You will not want to miss the chance to hear OAK's Executive Director Brooke Gentile and Katie Harvey OAK's Workplace Wellness CSA Program Coordinator talk about all things CSA on Eastern Standard with Tom Martin on WEKU. <a href="https://esweku.org/track/3404884/april-27-2023-community-supported-agriculture">https://esweku.org/track/3404884/april-27-2023-community-supported-agriculture</a>

### Farmers of Color Network

The Farmers of Color Network (FOCN) was founded in 2017 out of RAFI-USA's reflection on how our service delivery adequately/equitably addressed the unique needs of farmers of color. RAFI began FOCN by forging and strengthening relationships and distributing resources with a small group of farmers of color, mainly in the piedmont region of North Carolina. Since then, the Network has grown relationships with several hundred farmers of color across the Southeast U.S. and some U.S. territories. Additionally, our work has increased in visibility, leading to connections, strategic partnerships, and collaborations with organizations and individuals who are committed to seeing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) farmers and farms thrive. FOCN Members Are:

Farmers of color
Actively producing
Located in the Southeast region of the US
Learn more at <a href="https://www.rafiusa.org/programs/farmers-of-color-network/join-the-farmers-of-color-network/">https://www.rafiusa.org/programs/farmers-of-color-network/</a>

## Recording: Building Drought Resilient Soils

In this ATTRA-NCAT video, Dale Strickler explains how to catch and hold more water on your ranch. Strickler is a rancher, educator, and agronomist who consults internationally on sustainable farming. His 2018 book, "The Drought Resilient Farm," details myriad ways to restore soil biology, build resilience to droughts and floods, and create enduring health, wealth, and happiness for farmers.

## Reducing Cost by Working Together Survey

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**, <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPZ5XT7">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPZ5XT7</a>.

## Growing Fruit in Kentucky - Resources

The University of Kentucky Extension team has put together numerous resources for commercial fruit growers regarding production and pest management. The following details the resources provided by University of Kentucky specialists in entomology, horticulture, and plant pathology. <a href="https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/04/11/university-of-kentucky-extension-resources-for-commercial-fruit-production">https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2023/04/11/university-of-kentucky-extension-resources-for-commercial-fruit-production</a>

# Using Google Earth Pro to Create a Map for Your Agricultural Operation

Have you ever wondered how to make a digital map that can show the existing and planned infrastructure for virtually any piece of land in the world? Have you wondered how you can measure the area of a particular field or the length of a proposed fence or pipeline? Have you wondered what the elevation is at different locations? The answers to all these questions lie in getting familiar with the free tool Google Earth Pro. Check out this <a href="helpful intro from NCAT">helpful intro from NCAT</a> featuring NY farmer <a href="helpful intro from NCAT">Steve Gabriel's 4-part video tutorial</a>.

## **#OAK2023 Recordings Available!**

Registered participants and attendees of our January 2023 conference can now access speaker presentations, recordings, handouts and related resources on

the 2023 Conference Content website. Access to the content requires login to your OAK profile. Reach out to <a href="mailto:robin@oak-ky.org">robin@oak-ky.org</a> if you are having trouble accessing your OAK profile page.

# **Educational & Farming Support**

# **In-person Events Throughout the Region**

### **Hunger in KY Summit**

Be part of the vital conversation about food and nutrition security in Kentucky as we uncover existing strengths and look for additional opportunities to address Hunger in KY.

May 4th, 2023 9 am – 4pm EST

Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service

1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504

Register at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/557174573147">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/557174573147</a>

#### **International Grassland Conference**

May 14-19, 2023

Covington, KY

This is the first time this international conference will be hosted in the US since 1981. Funding is available to help cover your expenses to attend this conference. The registration cost is \$600 for the entire time or \$200 for one day. The National Cattleman's Beef Association is offering scholarships to producers through the Rancher Resiliency Grant program. You can apply and should be approved to receive up to \$1,622 to cover/reimburse your expenses related to attending the event. Here is the link with details to the grant information: <a href="http://www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant-More details and registration here">http://www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant-More details and registration here</a>.

# Western Kentucky Summer Forage Tour -Nurtured Lands Farm - A Regenerative Journey

May 25, 2023, 3-7pm CENTRAL

Nurtured Lands Farm Princeton, KY, 42445

This farm tour will be a walking tour of the 50-acre farm (35 in pasture). Hosts Justin and Kate will explain how they used strategic forages, animals, and grazing techniques to bring life back into the soil. The tour will be a friendly discussion of shared practices. \$10 per person at the door to cover tour and dinner Please bring a lawn chair. Find out more about the event here: <a href="https://westKyForageTourMay23.eventbrite.com">https://westKyForageTourMay23.eventbrite.com</a>

### **Heartland Homesteading Conference**

Save the Date Friday, Sep 29- Sunday, Oct 1, 2023 Campbellsville, KY

https://brushfire.com/homeplaceongreenriver/conference/546211

### **Third Thursday**

Don't forget, the monthly Third Thursday workshops can be viewed in-person at the <u>Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm</u> or streamed live at <u>www.youtube.com/kysuag/live</u>.

### **Virtual Events**

### **Ask an Agroforester Webinar Series**

Appalachian Sustainable Development's "Ask an Agroforester" Webinar Series is an opportunity to come together for a deep dive into detailed information about specific topics. Each webinar will consist of a welcome and intro from ASD and a short presentation from the presenter. There will then be a 2-part Q and A. The first half will consist of questions collected ahead of time, the 2nd half of the Q and A will be live audience questions. Regiter here:

https://events.humanitix.com/ask-an-agroforester-webinar-series#

Thurs May 4th, 7-8:30pm ET - Silvopasture on a Shoestring with Austin Unrue of Trees for Graziers

Tues May 9th, 7-8:30pm ET - Wildly Homegrown: Sourcing, Selection and Storytelling with Jonathan McRay of Silver Run Forest Farm Tues May 16th, 7-8:30pm ET - Getting Started in Resprout Silviculture with Mark

Date TBA (May) - All About Persimmons with Eliza Greenman

### **Beneficial Insects Webinar**

Thursday, May 11th at 6pm ET

Janet Meyer from Berea College Farm will talk about beneficial insects and sustainable IPM. This webinar is open to anyone and everyone. Register here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beneficial-insects-webinar-with-janet-meyer-from-berea-college-tickets-622557856307">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beneficial-insects-webinar-with-janet-meyer-from-berea-college-tickets-622557856307</a>

### **Growing Online--Virtual Training**

May 15 6-8 PM ET

Krawczyk

Join the CCD team Brett Wolff, Savannah Columbia, Camille Dant, and Emily Spencer in a 2 hour training on How to Grow Your Business Online. We will cover Basic Web Design, Digital Marketing, and Understanding & Using Analytics.

You must register via the link to attend:

https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAudeyprTMiH9bAcOtm6bG2TYSHrRot4dQi?fbclid=lwAR1DL-8jjV26ViOVsk8zVC6lLs-SGmrqrlkX8w9Jqi9ylui3iC-pGXXJyo4#/registration

### **Webinar: NRCS Support for Organic Transition**

May 22, 2023 2:00 pm US/Eastern

This webinar will discuss the USDA's Organic Transition Initiative and NRCS's role in supporting producers in transitioning to organic. The new Organic

Management Interim Conservation Practice Standard (823) will be highlighted, including technical and financial assistance for producers transitioning to organic and wanting to improve soil health, reduce erosion, improve plant productivity and health, reduce plant pressure, and more. <u>Learn more here.</u>

### **Finding Success with Customizable CSA Shares**

Tues. May 23, 12-1:30 ET

If you've considered switching your CSA from a traditional approach to one that allows members to choose which items they receive, attend this event to hear two farmers share different experiences with customizable shares! They'll talk about pros & cons, & the impact of customization on their CSA. Find out more and register here.

# **Resources and Funding for Farmers**

# USDA opened the signup period for its Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative (CLEAR30) now through July 31, 2023

Agricultural producers and landowners with certain expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts can receive additional rental incentives and extend that land's role in conservation for another 30 years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has opened the signup period for its Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers enrollment (CLEAR30) now through July 31, 2023. To sign up for CLEAR30, landowners and producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. Contact information can be found at <a href="mailto:farmers.gov/service-locator">farmers.gov/service-locator</a>. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at <a href="mailto:fsa.usda.gov/crp">fsa.usda.gov/crp</a>.

# USDA Commits Greater Conservation Assistance for Producers Transitioning to Organic Production

On April 10, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced details about its \$75 million investment in conservation assistance for producers transitioning to organic production. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is dedicating financial and technical assistance to a new organic management standard and partnering with new organic technical experts to increase staff capacity and expertise. NRCS will dedicate \$70 million to assist producers with a new organic management standard under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program is for farmers who are beginning or in the process of transitioning to organic certification.

OAK is in conversation with NRCS Kentucky and will work to communicate with farmers about the opportunity to apply for this new Organic Management Practice when it is available. Stay tuned for more info in upcoming enewsletters!

Click here to access a factsheet on certified organic production created by

NRCS-Kentucky

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lomJSqOY20m0YKQWrLXblSef9e7HPcZT/view

Apply for Value-Added Producer or Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant
The period to apply for Value-Added Producer (VAPG) or Socially
Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) project funding is now open! Online
applications will be accepted until May 11th for VAPG and May 16th for
SDGG at grants.gov.

Want best practices for applying for VAPG funding? Check out National Sustainable Agriculture's <u>Farmers Guide to Applying for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program</u>.

In this <u>18-minute video</u>, KCARD's Myrisa Christy and Community Farm Alliance's Laurie White cover everything you need to know about VAPG: who can apply, what the funds can be used for, how to get started, and more. If you have questions, you can contact KCARD for assistance at (859) 550-3972 or <a href="mailto:kcard@kcard.info">kcard@kcard.info</a>

### **Southern SARE Graduate Student Grants**

Proposals are due May 12, 2023

Southern SARE <u>Graduate Student Grants</u> are open to Master's and PhD students, enrolled at accredited institutions across the Southern region, who are interested in exploring areas of sustainable agriculture through quantitative and qualitative research projects. Maximum funds awarded are \$16,500 for a two-year project. Research projects must cover issues related to improving the profitability of farmers/ranchers in the Southern region; sustaining and improving the environmental quality and natural resources base on which agriculture depends; or enhancing the quality of life for farmers and ranchers and the communities they support.

# Lots of Compassion Grant: to transform vacant lots into gardens Applications are due by June 2, 2023.

Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day and KidsGardening share a belief that the garden has the power to do more than grow flowers and herbs, it can grow people, communities, and even kindness, too. Together, we're announcing our new Lots of Compassion grant program, designed to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. In 2023, 10 grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded annually. Nonprofit organizations, school districts, universities, groups, religious organizations, or other tax-exempt organizations in the United States and US Territories are eligible to apply. Applicants must use the funds to build a garden in a vacant lot.

https://kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities/lots-of-compassion-grant-23/

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 closes Dec. 29, 2023.** 

For more information visit the <u>program webpage</u> or the <u>EGSFP fact shee</u>t. 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.

### \$1 Billion Available to Help Farmers Invest in Renewable Energy

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is accepting applications starting on April 1 for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the <a href="Rural Energy for America Program (REAP">Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)</a>, with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis.

For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 <u>Federal Register</u>.

### Silvopasture and Forest Farming Support / Funds Available

The Catalyzing Agroforestry Grant Program is focused on implementing silvopastures and forest farming practices through direct support payments and will assist producers in designing appropriate projects using technical assistance and science-based planning strategies. The ultimate goal of the effort is to increase ecosystem sustainability and diversity by scaling up agroforestry practices. The Appalachian Beginning Forest Farming Coalition (ABFFC) project will provide up to \$1500/acre for silvopasture implementation and up to \$1000/quarter acre for forest farming implementation depending on project scale and scope. To enhance shared learning, producers who receive support will share successes and lessons-learned with their peers and other interested stakeholders. Minority, female, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and/or socially disadvantaged farmers are highly encouraged to apply.

https://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/emef

### **Slow Food Bluegrass Garden Grant**

**Deadline**: ongoing

**Link**: http://www.slowfoodbluegrass.org/gardens

Slow Food Bluegrass micro-grants support groups in Kentuckiana who foster education about and access to good, clean, fair food. Special priority is given to limited resource communities and to projects that demonstrate a strong buy-in from participants. Grants range from \$500 - \$1,000 and may be awarded throughout the year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach us at <a href="mailto:slowfoodbluegrass@gmail.com">slowfoodbluegrass@gmail.com</a>.

#### **KSU Small Scale Farm Grant**

Deadline: The 1st day of every other month

Funding Amount: Up to \$5,000 for farmers, \$15,000 for groups benefiting multiple farmers

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers and Kentucky agriculture groups including farmers markets

**Link**: http://kysu.edu/academics/cafsss/research-extension/small-scale-farm-grant-program/

Overview: The KSU Small Scale Farm Grant is designed with the small operation farmer in mind. This grant application is relatively simple to complete and the funds can be used to purchase needed equipment related to the proposed project. To qualify, applicants must be producing a value-added product, be an organic farmer, and/or be an aquatic farmer. Farmers markets are often eligible. Previously approved projects have included canning equipment, a walk-in cooler, a water line to a hoop house, a root cellar, a cool-bot for vegetables, and a trailer for keeping meat cool and recently added farmer education assistance with a maximum of \$500.

#### **Kentucky Proud Promotional Grant**

**Deadline**: On-going

Funding Amount: Up to 10% annual gross farm income, max at \$8,000 per year; \$1 for \$1

match

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses **Link**: <a href="http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/grants.html">http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/grants.html</a>

Overview: The Kentucky Proud Promotional Grant is a cost share program to help Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses pay for advertising and marketing expenses. The award amount is based on 10% of direct farm impact; for a farmer it would be 10% of their total farm gross sales. The applicant must be a registered member of Kentucky Proud to apply and use the Kentucky Proud logo/brand in marketing efforts paid for with program funds. Examples of fundable items include TV ads, radio ads, web expenses, hats, t-shirts, demos, sampling, labels, packaging, tradeshows, UPC, and bar codes. This is a great program that helps promote our local farms!

#### **ON-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program**

**Deadline**: Applications are accepted year round

Funding Amounts: 50% cost share - up to a \$10,000 incentive, plus \$150 for an approved third party energy audit

Eligible Entities: Kentucky farmers with a gross farm income of at least \$25,000

Link: https://agpolicy.ky.gov/energy/Pages/default.aspx

Overview: The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund offers an On-Farm Energy Efficiency Program to help Kentucky farmers with energy projects. These cost share funds are available to increase on farm energy efficiency and to support renewable fuel production projects. The applicant is required to have a third party energy audit completed. This program can be combined with the USDA-NRCS Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to get up to 75% of a total project cost covered.

Many thanks to <u>KCARD</u> for promoting many of these grant opportunities. Did you know KCARD can also answer questions about funding programs and help you prepare an application? resources



Follow Along:





