



Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Oh June, the pace quickens, the diversity of the locally sourced diet widens, the heat picks up, the days continue to lengthen. Full summer is just around the corner..

June's arrival brings with it the opportunity for more, monthly in-person learning and gathering with OAK's [Farmer Field Days](#). Read on for registration details and a stellar calendar of events.

#OAK2023 recordings are now publicly available. This is the moment you have been waiting for. If you were unable to attend Conference, missed some content or just want to revisit some of the shared learning, the recorded sessions are now being released monthly from OAK's 12th Annual OAK Conference held last January. We hope you can take advantage of the content these recordings provide.

Planning is already underway for OAK's 13th Annual Conference in January 2024. Team OAK would love your input, read below and plan to suggest content for **#OAK2024**.

As you read about 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.

The pace of summer, the thrill of the flavors, the long days when sleep eludes us, it is all here. Welcome June.

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

Call for Proposals #OAK2024

OAK's 13th Annual Conference will return to the KSU Demonstration and Research Farm in Frankfort, KY, from January 25-27, 2024. We want you to be a part of it!

We're now accepting proposals for farm hacks, sessions, and workshops at #OAK2024. Learn more via the link below, and start planning YOUR contribution to our next OAK Conference!

Don't delay - the deadline to submit is August 4, 2023!

[Click here for details on how to submit a proposal](#)

Don't want to submit a proposal but have ideas for a Session?

We still want to hear from you! Let us know who you'd like to see present and / or what content you want to learn about at #OAK2024: submit your suggestions for content [here](#).

#OAK2023 Conference Recordings

OAK is thrilled to offer for public access these recordings of the inspiring and informative sessions from January 2023's Annual Conference. Currently released for full access are the recordings of the following:

Farming Towards a Healthy Future

Is There a Grant For That? Focus On Your Farm Funding

Outdoor Mushroom Inoculation

Livestock Systems Promoting Soil Health and Biological-Based Fertility

On-Farm Vegetable Breeding: Developing Varieties Uniquely Adapted to the Southeast

Pathways to Organic Transition and Organic Careers

OAK will continue to release new content monthly through October. We hope you enjoy and learn from these incredible presentations!



[View These #OAK2023 Session Recordings](#)

Farmer Profile: Andy McDonald and Mehera Baugher, of Cedar Ring Greens



For nearly twenty years, [Cedar Ring Greens](#) has been a part of the Franklin County local food scene. As year-round producers of certified organic greens, herbs, peppers, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, and more, Connie Lemley, Andy McDonald, and Mehera Baugher have contributed to the fresh, healthy food offerings available to their community and market customers. Mehera is currently the full-time farmer of the trio, supported by the landowners Connie, who has passed the torch of full-time farming to serve as Farm to School coordinator for Frankfort Independent Schools, and Andy, who works full-time as a sustainable energy advocate.

Connie and Andy purchased the 12-acre farm in 2009 and, along with their daughter Ella and lots of friends and community, built their market farm and retrofitted an existing house into a passive-solar home. Using wood heat, a passive solar Trombe wall, composting toilet, green roof, greywater system, and a nine-panel solar PV array, and a solar water heating system, Andy and Connie are able to power, heat and cool their home and farm structures with low-impact, renewable energy. Andy's off-farm work is with [Apogee- Climate & Energy Transitions](#), a program of Earth Tools Inc, serving as a consultant, educator and advocate for renewable energy solutions. One of his current projects is helping to organize [Solarize Frankfort](#), a group-purchasing program of the [Kentucky Solar Energy Society](#) that makes it easier and less costly for people to install solar.

Mehera hails from Louisville and returned home to Kentucky in 2021 after 12 years in Chicago, IL. Farming is a second career for Mehera, who left her work in research and program evaluation in 2018 to pursue an apprenticeship in urban farming with Windy City Harvest and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Since that time, she has worked on the crew of six different farms; and in 2022, she took over the farm operation at Connie and Andy's property. Mehera continues using the Cedar Ring Greens name and grows many of the crops for which Connie developed a following at the Franklin County Farmers Market, including year-round lettuce, specialty salad mixes, and cooking greens. She grows spring through fall for the Franklin County Farmers Market and Locals Food Hub using Cedar Ring Greens' greenhouses and semi-permanent beds, minimal-till practices and cover cropping, row covers and high tunnels, and a variety of human-powered tools for biointensive market farming. In the future she hopes to partner with local farmers in a co-op style business to leverage the power of working together.

Join our June 20 Field Day at Cedar Ring Greens to learn more about their efforts to integrate sustainability into their day-to-day tasks while helping to build their community's local food economy.

What a great day at Faul Family Riverside Farm!



Diversity of livestock and intentional rotations presented themselves as the primary aspects of Andre Faul's farming systems and business success throughout this on-farm spring event.

After a brief introduction in the [Faul Family Riverside Farm](#) event barn, May Farmer Field Day participants were loaded onto a wagon for the tour of Andre's pastures and the poultry, sheep, hogs, and cattle that forage and graze there, wrapping up at the poultry brooder and saltwater shrimp barn.

OAK is grateful to Andre and his family and crew at Faul Family Riverside Farm for this opportunity to tour and learn about their systems in a community of interested farmers and ag professionals. Read more about this May 2023 event on our [Field Days website](#).

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!

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

Scaling Up While Lessening the Work: Farmer Collaborations and Efficiencies

Flourishing Herbs Farm -- Scottsville -- September 5, 2023, 1-4pm CENTRAL

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 [OAK YouTube](#) 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 Jenny@oak-ky.org

USDA Restores Organic Certification Cost Share to 75% Reimbursement up to \$750

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for 75 percent of certification costs for program year 2023, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees. [Learn more about the Cost Share here.](#)

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 forget OAK offers Member Benefits from partnering businesses and organizations, like AcresUSA, [Johnny's Seeds](#), [Chelsea Green Publishing](#), [Earth Tools](#), [Felco](#), and more, OAK Members receive product discounts and more! Active Members can now easily access those member discount codes on a newly published [Members Only Access page here](#).



OAK Member Farmers, UPDATE your profile page on the Directory. The Find-a-Farm Directory promotion is underway and will continue through early July. As the local market season gets more and more vibrant, we will continue to direct folks 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.

Virtual CSA Chef Demo: Tackling Veg Overload July 11



Farmers, want to help your consumer network getting a top notch CSA experience? Share this opportunity far and wide. Join OAK, KY Farm Share Coalition, and The Food Connection for a CSA Chef demo this July 11th from 12:15-1pm ET. Chef Tanya will offer some best practices for using up your fresh veg, freezing your share, and combating any feelings of veg overload. This virtual cooking demonstration is open to all and FREE to attend.

[Register and Share this Virtual Chef Demo](#)

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 [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.

Opportunities, the Latest News & Calls to Action

Historical Perspectives on Food System Transformation

This blog post is the culmination of a fellowship research project by NSAC Grassroots Fellow Anthony Singh-Reynoso and highlights three case studies: the struggle for farmworker justice and the United Farm Workers; the necessity of community-based methods of self-sufficiency and the Freedom Farm Cooperative; and the origins of the Farm Bill and the farmer response to the Dust Bowl. Read it here, <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/historical-perspectives-on-food-system-transformation>.

New Report from USDA Economic Research Service Delivers Updates on Organic Production, Markets, Consumers and Policy

Consumer demand for organically produced products has driven an expansion in U.S. organic production since 2000. The premiums paid by consumers provide farmers the opportunity to recover the costs of production and improve their financial well-being. This report, released in March 2023, describes important U.S. organic policy initiatives since 2000 and examines the importance of investment in research on organic practices. The report also investigates key components of organic supply chains—including production; certification; farm-level costs; and returns, wholesale markets, and industry structure—along with the evolving characteristics of organic food consumers and retail markets. View the details here, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=106015>.

CSA Ideas Lab: Multi-Farm & Cooperative CSA Models

Listen in to this Ideas Lab from CSA Innovation Network all about building community to find success within the CSA space. As growers, often there are challenges to face in trying to grow everything for everyone. That's where the cooperative, or aggregated, CSA model comes into play! Learn about how two multi-farm CSA operations got to where they are today in this engaging discussion. Speakers Ashley C. Smith from Black Soil KY in Kentucky & Charrisha Hillery from the Fresno Farm Box in California will share their

experiences & guide our conversation on what cooperative, aggregated, multi-farm CSA programs can look like. Watch it here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6GUHgvMR50>.

Organic Food Sales Break Record in U.S. Markets

Organic food sales in the United States in 2022 broke through \$60 billion for the first time, hitting another high-level mark for the resilient organic sector. Total organic sales – including organic non-food products, were a record \$67.6 billion*, according to the [2023 Organic Industry Survey](#) released by the Organic Trade Association. The organic market grew despite challenging headwinds: inflation pressures tightening consumer wallets, supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic and global political events, a proliferation of competing food labels in the grocery aisles and a labor shortage felt acutely by organic producers. Inflation heated up costs across the organic supply chain – indeed, the entire food supply chain — and boosted prices in the grocery aisles. As a result, the organic sector reflected the overall food sector, with the value of organic sales rising even as the growth in the volume of sales for some categories slipped.

USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

USDA is seeking nominations for four positions on the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Nominations will be open to the public until July 15, 2023. The 12-member Committee, which was assembled in March 2022, is part of USDA's efforts to increase support for urban agriculture and innovative production. Members of the committee provide input on policy development and to help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country. Read more here, <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/05/15/usda-seeks-members-federal-advisory-committee-urban-agriculture-and>.

Educational & Farming Support

In-person Events Throughout the Region

Annual Summer Solstice Gathering

June 17, 2023 4:30 PM ET

Salamander Springs Farm Rockcastle County, KY

Check out details for this annual event [here](#).

Soil Health Principles & Practice

July 1, 2023 8:30-5:00 ET

Salamander Springs Farm, Rockcastle County, KY

Register by June 2 for early-registration discount.

Create healthy mycorrhizal soils that build carbon, water and nutrients for nutrient-dense food--without outside inputs! Incorporate contour swales for water and nutrient capture, maintain permanent beds and fields that integrate cover crops without tillage. Utilize mulches, compost and humanure. Close the loop by cycling “wastes” locally. [Register here.](#)

Beef and Bees: Grazing High-Diversity Native Pastures workshop

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Knoxville, TN

The workshop will include lunch and a trip to native grass pastures interseeded with forbs at the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center-Holston Unit. Attendees are encouraged to wear durable, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen. No cost for the workshop, but pre-registration before July 10 is mandatory.

<https://forms.gle/PZ4zqdVm5VGkusZL7>

<https://nativegrasses.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/184/2023/03/Beef-and-Bees-CIG-Workshop-Flyer.pdf>

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 [Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm](#) or streamed live at www.youtube.com/kysuag/live.

Virtual Events

Food Access & Sustainability Communities WEBINAR

June 3, 2023, 2:30-4pm ET

A sustainable community is defined by its ability to manage its human, natural, and financial capital to meet current needs while ensuring adequate resources for future generations. Equitable Food access is a key feature of this model, but what happens when the human capital is unable to sustain itself? In this discussion, chefs and activists address this challenge, what drives it, and their own solutions towards a better future while investing in the present. Moderated by Colleen Vincent, Vice President of Community, James Beard Foundation, featuring chefs, restaurateurs and activists - including East Kentucky's own Valerie Horn! <https://jamesbeard.tfaforms.net/4931520>

Growing Organic with USDA webinar

June 6, 2023, 2:00pm ET

Join this webinar to learn more about the suite of services, funding and new programs available for farmers through the national Organic Transition Initiative (OTI). Topics will include: assistance with certification costs; access to capital; assistance for dairy producers; technical and financial assistance for conservation practices; risk management options; changes required by the Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule; new support through the Transitioning to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP); new grant funding available for market development.

[Register here.](#)

Organic Agriculture—Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Through Carbon Sequestration

June 7, 2023, 2:00pm - 3:00pm (EDT)

This free webinar from Rodale Institute will provide insights into soil organic carbon accumulation potential of organic agriculture by leveraging research findings from Rodale Institute's Farming Systems Trial—the longest-running side-by-side comparison of organic and conventional cropping systems in North America.

[Register here.](#)

"The Agroforestry Series: Right Crop, Right Market" webinar

June 8, 2023, at 12:00 PM Central Time

This webinar will dig deeper into the market dimension of agroforestry with a focus on a few of the perennial crops that have the greatest commercial potential. Savanna Institute staff will provide an overview of four promising perennial crops for Illinois and the Midwest, including hazelnuts, chestnuts, elderberry, and black currants. The agronomics, marketing, and commercialization of each crop will be discussed, including opportunities and current bottlenecks. We'll leave plenty of time for questions about these emergent crops!

[Register here.](#)

Hemp Production in Regenerative Organic Agroecosystems

June 21, 2023, 2-3 PM EDT

Hemp, with approximately 50,000 declared uses, has been grown in North America since the 17th century. Hemp is grown for a variety of purposes such as fiber production and paper industry, cosmetics, medicinal properties and in the creation of construction material. *C. sativa*, with hundreds of phytocannabinoids, terpenoids, flavonoids and fatty acids, is recognized as a plant with a rich chemical profile. Attend this webinar to see if hemp can fit into your farm's system.

[Register here.](#)

Organic Soil Health Practices for Water Management and Water Quality

Jun 26, 2023, 1:00 pm EDT

Join us for this webinar during which we will discuss water management in organic agriculture, cover the ways that soil health can enhance water use efficiency and nutrient retention, and outline conservation strategies that optimize the stewardship of water resources.

[Registration and details 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 farmers.gov/service-locator. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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 e-newsletters and a webinar this fall! Click here to access a factsheet on certified organic production created by NRCS-Kentucky <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lomJSqOY20m0YKQWrLXbISef9e7HPcZT/view>

\$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 [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combating the climate crisis. For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 [Federal Register](#).

USDA Extends Application Deadline for Revenue Loss Programs to July 14

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) to July 14, 2023, to give producers more time to apply for assistance. The original deadline was June 2.

Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with nine organizations to provide educational and technical assistance to agricultural producers and provide assistance in completing an ERP Phase Two application. The extended deadline will give producers more time to work with these partner organizations and apply for assistance

PARP Application Assistance

USDA will host a webinar that focus on completing the PARP application form on June 8, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. eastern with members of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee. [Register here](#).

USDA Offers Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased Costs

ODMAP provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2022 calendar year. ODMAP provides financial assistance that will immediately support certified organic dairy operations during 2023 keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions. FSA is accepting applications from **May 24 to July 26, 2023**. To apply, producers should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#). Organic dairy operations are required to provide their USDA certification of organic status confirming operation as an organic dairy in 2023 and 2022 along with the certification of 2022 milk production in hundredweight. ODMAP complements other assistance available to dairy producers, including Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) and Supplemental DMC, with more than \$300

million in benefits paid for the 2023 program year to date. Learn more on the [FSA Dairy Programs webpage](#)

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 [program webpage](#) or the [EGSFP fact sheet](#). USDA also has an existing [Farm Storage Facility Loan Program](#) 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.

AMS is currently accepting applications for the Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) Program

The Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) program supports the development of new and expanded organic markets to help increase the consumption of domestic organic agricultural commodities. Applications deadline has been extended. Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on August 8, 2023. Grant applications submitted after the due date may not be considered. Information about grant eligibility is available below or contact the OMDG Team at OMDG@usda.gov.

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 slowfoodbluegrass@gmail.com.

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: <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/grants.html>

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, tradeshow, 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 [KCARD](#) 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:

