



Hello ##[Name | First]##,

Oh July, you came upon Kentucky with a series of storms, high winds, localized flooding, and power outages. The OAK team hopes everyone has settled back in to calmer weather and cooler temperatures.

OAK IS HIRING. The OAK Team is expanding! Applications are now open for 4 full-time positions. From an **Organic Production Specialist** to a **Farmer Education Coordinator** and more, this is an incredible time to consider working for the Organic Association of Kentucky in one of these positions. Please help OAK spread the word far and wide. We are so excited.

#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. **Sponsorship Opportunities** for the 13th Annual Conference are now available. Team OAK is also looking for content input, please 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.

Mid summer is upon us, melons and sweet corn appearing at local markets, tomatoes and cucumbers in abundance, make way for the flavors of summer. Welcome July.

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

OAK IS HIRING

The Organic Association of Kentucky is excited to hire 4 full-time positions this summer. We encourage anyone interested to learn more about these roles on the [OAK Careers](#)

web page and apply with a complete application by August 4, 2023 for full consideration.

Current Openings at OAK:

- **Organic Transition Program Manager** - focused on technical assistance related to organic certification and partnering with USDA Midwest Region Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) to implement Kentucky programming.
- **Farmer Education Coordinator** - dedicated to organizing and supporting OAK's annual conference and developing and delivering farmer education for Kentucky farmers.
- **Marketing and Outreach Coordinator** - designed to increase sales through a variety of market channels like Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares.
- **Organic Production Specialist** - focused on organic production and working with farmers to develop technical production plans.

Please share these job opportunities with your network and contact jobs@oak-ky.org with any questions.

[View Job Openings Here](#)

A graphic for the Organic Association of Kentucky hiring open positions. It features a dark blue background with a light green abstract shape on the left. The text "ORGANIC ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY" is in white, followed by "HIRING" in large white letters and "OPEN POSITIONS" in bold white letters. Below this, the job titles "Organic Transition Program Manager", "Organic Production Specialist", "Farmer Education Coordinator", and "Marketing and Outreach Coordinator" are listed in white. In the bottom left corner, there is a white megaphone icon. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue button with the text "APPLY NOW" in white. At the very bottom, the text "Learn more at oak-ky.org/careers" is in white.

ORGANIC ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY

HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

Organic Transition Program Manager
Organic Production Specialist
Farmer Education Coordinator
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

APPLY NOW

Learn more at oak-ky.org/careers

#OAK2024 Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

The Organic Association of Kentucky's annual farming conference, now in its 13th year,

includes hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in our community food systems: farmers, researchers, nonprofit professionals, federal and state agency partners, allied service providers and community members working collectively to build a local, resilient and healthy food system. OAK is pleased to announce Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this not-to-be-missed January 2024 event in Frankfort, KY.

SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

Sponsorship powers farmer-to-farmer education! Revenues generated by conference sponsors are foundational to supporting the success of the event overall.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

Sponsors can count on high visibility in print and digital event promotional materials before, during and after the conference. Audience reach is estimated to be 450 attendees at the event and over 20,000 through event promotions.

Become a Sponsor

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!

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 public access to these recordings of the inspiring and informative sessions from the 2023 Annual Conference. In addition to the collection of recordings released in June, the following recordings are now available to the public starting on July 1, 2023:

Reconnecting with the Roots of Organics - keynote

High Tunnelling to Profit: Managing Your Crops, Soils and Structures - workshop

Corralling High Tunnel Arthropod Pests Through Integrated Pest Management

Tips and Resources for Beginning Farmers

Farm Bill - What's in it for you?

The Basics of Tomato Grafting: What, Why and How

Costs and Benefits of Integrating Poultry into Vegetable Rotations

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



[Watch #OAK2023 Session Recordings](#)

Farmer Profile: Holly and James Robinson



When it comes to the grit and tenacity needed to build a family farm, Holly and James Robinson fit the definition for the hardworking, dedicated and resourceful farmers who can see it through to success. Since 2015 when they took ownership of James' family farmland in Rockcastle County, they've been slowly and steadily improving the infrastructure, soil and profitability of Hallow Springs Farm. Yet sometimes it has felt more slow than steady... Maintaining off-farm jobs (Holly as a high school teacher and organic inspector; James as a mechanic/tradesman), raising a family of five, building up the local farmers market, and managing shallow and depleted soils on steep hillsides, these co-farmers have come a long way since their first crop harvests in 2016.

Erosion and flooding are a consistent challenge for these foothill farmers, and they've found organic farming methods like natural mulches, cover crops and rotational grazing to be of great help in maximizing the very limited areas of *relatively flat* and well-drained soils amidst their rolling hillsides and steep slopes. They've built their total production area of herbs, vegetables, and hops to a half-acre total, spread between three separate areas of suitable land. The most recent of these garden parcels required significant labor and creativity in earth-moving to install a 30' x 96' high tunnel with rainwater catchment tanks at the base of a hillside.

The Robinsons lean on local farmers market sales from their produce and value-added products (goat's milk soap, breads, jams and jellies); and their cattle sales, as their primary farm income. They also raise a small herd of meat and milk goats for supplemental products, income, and family consumption. This diversification allows them flexibility and profit potential for current and future markets, while also restoring the fertility and vitality to their farm's hillsides.

The Rockcastle County Farmers Market in Mt Vernon has not only served Hallow Springs Farm's as their primary sales outlet; it has also benefited from the dedication of these co-farmers to building their community food system. In 2019, the Market received state funding for a permanent building and covered pavilion, spearheaded by Holly's commitment of time, grant writing, and community organizing for an initiative that required local, county, and state partners in collaboration. She continues to serve as a volunteer Farmers Market coordinator.

Additionally, Holly works as a contract Organic Inspector, assisting in the process for farms who have applied to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for Organic Certification. Hallow Springs Farm was certified organic from 2017 - 2022 and continues to use organic practices on their farm, but they chose to let go of their certification when Holly's new Inspector position posed a "conflict of interest" conundrum.

We're excited to learn more from Holly and James at an upcoming farmer field day at Hallow Springs Farm, on Thursday, July 6 - learn more below and register at oak-ky.org/field-days, We'll hear from these inspiring co-farmers, as well as from [Grow Appalachia's Farmer Development Team](#) and [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#). Hope to see you there!

Register Now for this Farmer Field Day July 6th at Hallow Springs Farm

Farmer Profile: Jim Coleman

Jim Coleman was raised in Fayette County on his family's farm, Coleman Crest, which was originally purchased on March 27, 1888, by his great grandfather James Coleman, after he and his family had tilled the farm under enslavement.

Jim's memories of the family farm and the surrounding Uttingertown neighborhood are filled with connected family and community, hard work and abundant time outdoors.

During Jim's early years, he knew the family farm as *Home*, yet on a larger scale, this land provided multi-generational income, security, nourishment and a historic connection to his family and to their century-long connection to the land. Jim remembers collecting food for childhood meals and managing equipment and livestock during his adolescent years. He credits the farm work he did with his father for first teaching him the principles of business economics - controlling costs and minimizing waste - which he later pursued as a career path.

Three generations and 122 years after Coleman Crest became the family's estate, Jim and his wife Cathy purchased the farm in 2001, and Jim's long-term vision for Coleman Crest Farm was born: to preserve the farm for future generations of his family, for the health

of the ecosystem and for aspiring farmers. Jim lost Cathy after 36 years of marriage in April 2020, and Jim relocated to Lexington to restore Coleman Crest Farm and his heart.

After attending OAK's virtual conference in 2021, and working with OAK's Transition Trainer Tony Silvernail and farmer-mentors Gayle Tomkinson, Erik Walles, and Grant Walles (formerly of Berries on Bryan Station), [Coleman Crest Farm](#) became the first* African American owned certified organic vegetable farm in Kentucky in July 2022. The farm currently has 3 acres allocated to grow certified organic vegetables and flowers, serving markets and restaurants throughout Fayette County.

Jim Coleman will host an OAK Farmer Field Day on July 25, highlighting:

- Coleman Crest Farm's 3 acres of certified organic production in vegetables and flowers;
- Jim's marketing strategies, serving independent grocers, restaurants, golf venues and catering firms in the Lexington market;
- The Farm's use of specialized equipment and tools to reduce operating costs and improve production yields, including a Kubota tractor, bed maker, Ferris Farm Polyplanter, deep soiler; plastic mulch and fabric row cover;
- The all-natural water well and irrigation system;
- The Farm's focus on pollinator habitats, groundwater protection and land stewardship;
- Future agritourism events hosted at the farm;
- The role and vision of local farms in community health and education;
- Jim's path as an African-American farmer into certified organic production.

This Field Day is open to any interested farmer, aspiring farmer, or agriculture professional. [Grow Appalachia's Farmer Development Team](#) will partner with OAK for this event.

*Based on OAK's experience, narrative feedback from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and USDA's Organic Integrity Database (which do not collect demographic data).

[Register Now for this Farmer Field Day July 25th at Coleman Crest Farm](#)



What a great day at Cedar Ring Greens!

Cedar Ring Greens farm in Frankfort has operated for nearly two decades with a firm commitment to sustainability - this commitment and the resulting systems of renewable energy use and creation and organic, low-input, minimal-till farming were the focus on conversation and learning during OAK's June Field Day. Andy McDonald showcased his family's home, renovated to net zero, with grid-tied solar panels for electric and water needs, passive solar elements, intentional insulation and design, and energy efficient systems. Mehera Baugher highlighted the farm's vegetable beds, featuring natural mulching, cover crops, biointensive tools and practices and season extension.

OAK is grateful to Andy and Mehera at [Cedar Ring Greens](#) for this opportunity to tour and learn about their renewable energy and organic production systems in a community of interested farmers and ag professionals! Read more about this June event on our [Field Days website](#).

Please scroll to the very end of this newsletter for details on the On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program: "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. "

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!

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

Hallow Springs Farm-- Mount Vernon, KY--TOMORROW 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

Learn More and Register for 2023 Field Days

OAK Has 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

Supporter Level Members: let's get you listed!

Team OAK is busily making updates to [OAK's Find-a-Farm Directory](#). In a new round of promotion, OAK will direct folks not only to the Farmer's Profiles, but the Supplier's profiles as well. If you are an OAK Supporting Business, please reach out to Robin@oak-ky.org. Let us create a supplier profile for your business and spread word of your work and products far and wide!



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 to join OAK for a virtual cooking demo on July 11th from 12:15-1pm ET. We will be joined by Chef Tanya from The Food Connection who will offer some best

practices for using up your fresh veg, freezing your share, and combating 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

Farmers, join your County's FSA County Committee!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members for elections that will occur later this year. Farm Service Agency County Committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

County committee members make important decisions on how federal farm programs are administered locally. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county area and may include an urban or suburban area.

Customers can locate their LAA through a [new GIS locator tool](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program; and
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in [your local FSA office](#) by Aug. 1, 2023.

Check out a new KY Market Opportunity

The Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA) Program

Kentucky's LFPA program is designed to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency through strategic **local food purchasing and distribution** mechanisms with partners like Feeding Kentucky. Federal funds administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be used to purchase local and regional foods produced within the state (or within 400 miles of the delivery location) and distribute them to low-income or underserved communities to increase access to healthy, nutritious, and local products. A wide variety of products will be purchased from local producers, like fruits, vegetables, seafood, meat, poultry, eggs, etc. that are fresh, raw, and significantly or minimally processed. The program prioritizes sourcing local products from Kentucky's socially disadvantaged producers.

Producers, see the new program page from KDA for more details:

<https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/LFPA-Grant.html>

Scroll to find Feeding Kentucky's LFPA program details posted on this page. **Feeding Kentucky will purchase local products from farmers and growers for Local Distribution Agencies.** Read the Feeding KY Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and complete the Producer Agreement if you are interested in this program!

Products must adhere to USDA food safety standards, find out more [here](#).

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>.

In-person Events Throughout the Region

Grow Appalachia Beginning Farmer Education Series: Crop Mob

Miller's Farm, Stanford KY

July 11, 2023, 10 AM - 3 PM ET; Rain Date July 13, 10 AM - 3 PM ET

Registration Deadline is TOMORROW, July 6th

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f1c60da0f34b41dda4e77843f24a8266>

Grow Appalachia is excited to support new and beginning farmers on their learning journey. A huge part of becoming an effective farmer is getting to know other farmers, and 'learning by doing' by working together on each others' farms.

Rural Action and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Ohio: Seminar on Forest Farming and Silvopasture

July 22, 2023 8:00 ET

Interested in learning more about forest farming, silvopasture and alleycropping? Join Rural Action and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Ohio at Sugarbush Valley, LLC, in Athens, Ohio for a free in-person seminar on all things agroforestry. The event is focused on farmer veterans, but is open to all. Lunch will be provided. Please [click here for more details](#).

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>

Kentucky State University Beef Cattle Workshop

July 26, 2023, at 6 P.M. EDT

Bluegrass Stockyards, Lexington, KY

Topic: Heat Stress Management & Forage Testing

Heartland Homesteading Conference

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

Campbellsville, KY

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

Big Spring Pasture Walk

Save the Date October 19, 2023

Adolphus, KY

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

Virtual Events

July is KY Grown Cut Flower Month

Kentucky cut flower growers are being celebrated this July in a month-long promotional event organized by the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Each day, cut flower growers across the state will be featured in KHC's [Kentucky Grown Cut Flower Promotion Facebook Group](#) and other social media platforms. The promotion includes cut flower farm bios, farmer and customer resources, featured [webinar](#) and [conference](#) recordings, and floral design videos filmed during cut flower farm visits (you can find last year's visit videos in [KHC's YouTube Playlist](#)). This promotion allows farmers to introduce their farm to new audiences highlighting where customers can find locally grown flowers on farms, at farmers markets, pop-up shops, through community supported agriculture subscriptions, and other outlets. To help customers find Kentucky operations, the Kentucky Horticulture Council and UK horticulture agents have partnered with UK's Center for Crop Diversification to produce an interactive, online [Kentucky Commercial Cut Flower Grower Directory](#). For more information about the monthly activities, please contact: Dakota Moore (dakota@kyhortcouncil.org) or Bethany Cox (bethany@kyhortcouncil.org)

UJAMAA Seeds Presents: Seed Farming 101-an online workshop

July 15, 2023 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST

The \$30 fee includes payment for the instructor. Please include your personal email when you register so the ZOOM LINK can be sent to you.

SEED FARMING 101 is intended for gardeners and small to medium-scale farmers who intend to grow seed for commercial seed companies. The workshop will introduce growers to fundamental practices and considerations for growing commercial seed crops, with techniques for multiple scales of farming. The workshop will cover working with seed companies, planning the season, record-keeping, planting, harvesting, processing, and storing seed crops.

The instructor Amirah Mitchell, owner of SISTAH SEEDS is a seed farmer, seed-keeper, storyteller & educator with special devotion to her ancestral seed crops of the African Diaspora. <https://ujamaafarms.com/seed-farming-101-1>

Webinar: Hidden Voices: Why Inclusive Storytelling Is Critical To Accelerating Climate Solutions

July 19 at noon ET

Join Project Drawdown online for the next Drawdown Ignite webinar, "[Hidden voices: Why inclusive storytelling is critical to accelerating climate solutions](#)." Project Drawdown director of storytelling and engagement Matt Scott will discuss why the way we talk about climate and whose voices we uplift matter, and how can we use stories to "pass the mic" to those who frequently go unheard—and, in the process, bring effective solutions to life.

Resources and Funding for Farmers

Applications for the 2023 round of the Brighter Future Fund are now open! Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$10,000 per project. Brighter Future Fund focuses on providing resources to beginning, women, veteran farmers, and historically resilient farmers identifying as socially disadvantaged in alignment with the USDA. **Application Deadline July 15th.** [Check out more details here.](#)

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/1lomJSqOY20m0YKQWrLXblSef9e7HPcZT/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

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



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