



Hello!

Welcome to November. Kentucky has seen its first frosts, the fall greens couldn't be sweeter, and the longer nights and shorter days of late Autumn and Winter are upon us. While Kentucky farmers never stop working, the days to pause and slow down ever so slightly are ahead. Winter is also a time for learning and community connection!

Registration is now open for the 12th Annual OAK Conference in Frankfort on January 26-28, 2023. Everyone is looking forward to sharing those three January days of deep learning and connection. Read on and plan to [register today](#).

Are you planning to attend Acres Eco-Ag Conference in Covington, KY this December? Thanks to a partnership with AcresUSA OAK is thrilled to offer our Members a discount for this information packed event next month. Not an OAK Member? Let this be one more incentive to join the OAK Community! Read Below for more details.

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.

Finally, Team OAK is excited to share our new website! Read on for more details, but YOU can control your preferences on receiving OAK's newsletters by logging in and setting your preferences [here](#). Please reach out to robin@oak-ky.org if you need assistance.

Warmly,
Robin Verson
Membership and Communications Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE FOR #OAK2023!
JANUARY 26-28, 2023
FRANKFORT, KY

Organic Association of Kentucky

ANNUAL FARMING CONFERENCE



#OAK2023 is a not-to-miss event featuring Kentucky farmers, production deep dives, research highlights, food system innovations, market opportunities, and the expanding OAK network for 3 days of learning and growing together. This event is open to everyone. Take advantage of early bird pricing, register today and join the OAK Community in January 2023 at KSU's [Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm](#).

Registration is open and scholarships are available.

Scholarship requests for OAK's 2023 Conference will be reviewed and awarded by the middle of each month up until the event and as funds allow. Scholarships are only applied to the regular conference and Pre-Conference Workshops are not included at this time. We share gratitude with partners who make it possible to offer scholarships: Grow Appalachia and Kentucky State University.

[Apply for a scholarship here](#)

#OAK2023 Sponsorship Opportunities

We are grateful for the early and strong support from the 2023 partners and sponsors listed below! Thinking about sponsoring the event? Join us! Space is limited for Trade Show exhibits in 2023, so sponsors have first priority and exhibitors will have access to spaces still available after November 1st. Contact Brooke Gentile with any questions.

[Become a Sponsor](#)

2023 Conference Sponsors, Partners & Funders



#OAK2023 Speaker Line up is LIVE!!

The OAK Team is proud to announce an incredible line up of speakers for OAK's 12th Annual Conference in Frankfort, KY on January 26-28, 2023. Folks from near and far will come together to deliver relevant, timely and inspirational information for the greater community.

[Check out these inspiring voices in sustainable agriculture](#)

Join us for OAK Conference 2023: Rooted in Resilience: Growing Healthy Soils and Opportunities for Kentucky Organics. Now in its 12th year, the Conference includes a growing audience of hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in community food systems: farmers, researchers, nonprofit professionals, federal and state agency partners, allied service providers and conscious consumers working collectively to build a local, resilient and healthy food system. Enjoy keynotes, farm tours, 30+ sessions and 6 half day pre-conference workshops.

[Check out the full AGENDA here](#)

New for #OAK2023: SIX Pre-Conference Workshops!

Want to dig deeper into a topic that will take you and your farming operation to the next level?

OAK is offering you just that opportunity with 6 immersive, exciting workshops offered on **January 26**.

Take advantage of this third day of learning with the OAK community and register for pre-conference workshops along with the main conference. Note upon registering, there is an additional cost for this extra day of learning!

Year-Round Salad Greens with Farmer/Farm Consultant Ray Tyler

Nutrient Budgeting with UK's Krista Jacobsen, and Grow Appalachia's Chris McKenzie

Forest Farming with Appalachian Sustainable Development's Robin Suggs and Rural Action's Andrea Miller

Marketing with Farm Marketing Guru Corinna Bench

Funding Opportunities for Kentucky Farms with KCARD

Maximizing High Tunnels with OSU's Matt Kleinhenz, UT's Annette Wszelaki, and Kentucky Farm Consultant Paul Wiediger

Stay tuned to OAK's social media, (new!) website and e-newsletters to learn more about the exciting #OAK2023 agenda of our three days together in Frankfort. Read more on OAK's [conference webpage](#).

Register here

Reflections from October's Farmer Field Day at Beiler Farm in Todd County, KY



John Beiler and his farmer have been digging into cover crops on their row crop and dairy cattle operation in Western Kentucky, managing 200 acres for nearly 20 years.

Upon visiting the fields, you'll see a diverse mix of crops covering the soil in a textured, green blanket. John says, "I can't sleep if I've got bare ground. I always have a multi-species cover crop mix on my fields."

Through years of intensive cover cropping, with support from Chad Parmley of MicroSoil Enhancers, John employs cover crops to wake up the soil's biome between

cash crops. He has not added macro or micronutrients to the fields since 2010.



His multi-species cover crops include 4+ (usually 6 or more) plant families to maximize the “sociobiome” of the soil. The different plant families specialize in using nutrients, adding nutrients, activating carbon, balancing the soil’s biology and providing living and, later, terminated organic matter to the soil. John emphasized that the cycle of cover cropping always provides dead matter for living organisms to continue consuming to build a rich soil biology.

One cover crop mix might include peas, radishes, hairy vetch, oats, rye grass, sugar beets, buckwheat, sunflowers and phacelia. The mixes change depending on the season, but each is diverse and provides fine forage for his cattle. John will graze his cattle on the cover cropped fields, which provide high protein content for improved animal health and milk production. OAK is grateful to Mr. Beiler who shared time, experience and practices with farmers for OAK’s October 2022 Field Day.

[Check out these shared resources from the Beiler Farm Field Day](#)

Reflections on GAP training event

On October 20th OAK staff partnered with Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky State University, University of Kentucky and National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation to host a Good Agricultural Practices Workshop. Producers and Technical Assistance providers gathered in Somerset, KY to learn the basics of Good Agricultural Practices, various GAP certification programs, and funding and technical assistance resources available to producers.

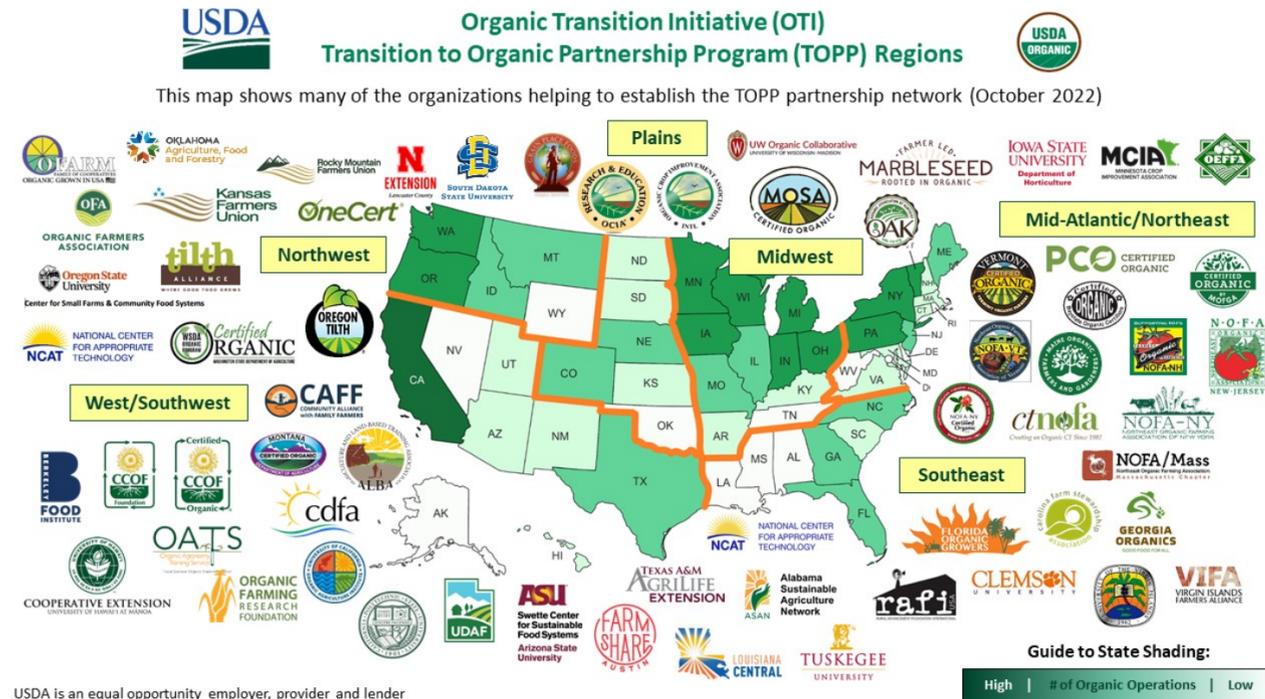
If you missed the workshop, still access read the Grower Toolkit below for a GAP Certification overview and if you are a Kentucky farmer ready to work on preparing for GAP Certification, contact [Bryan Brady](#) at the University of Kentucky for free assistance.

[GAP Certification - Grower Toolkit](#)

OAK Joins the USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)

The USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is investing up to \$100 million over five years in cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations who will partner with others to provide technical assistance and wrap-around support for transitioning and existing organic farmers. AMS is building partnership networks in six regions across the United States with trusted organizations serving direct farmer training, education, and outreach activities. Read more about the USDA program [here](#).

OAK is looking forward to working with MOSA Certified Organic as the Midwest Regional Lead and more than 60 already identified partner organizations across the nation to provide continued and expanded technical assistance and programming to support farmers in transitioning to organic certification. More details to come in early 2023 about programs activities.



OAK Members can access discounted registration for AcresUSA Eco-Ag Conference in Covington, KY

OAK is thrilled to announce an incredible opportunity for our Members to attend the [ACRES Eco-Ag Conference](#) in Covington, KY in December. ALL active OAK Members are eligible for a **20% registration discount** for the information packed event next month plus each time the code is used ACRES USA will donate \$25 to OAK. Applying this discount to even the single day Eco-Ag Conference ticket nearly pays for a full year as an Individual OAK Member. What are you waiting for?

While you are there, be sure to visit OAK staff at the Trade Show. We're also on the ACRES agenda, join Executive Director, Brooke Gentile, for a Round Table Discussion on *Resources and Technical Assistance for Beginning and Organic Farmers in Kentucky*.

The annual Eco-Ag Conference & Trade Show is where you find farmers and consultants from every facet of eco-farming who come together to share their experience and expertise. Attend the three-day event to learn the latest in cutting-edge technology and methods or dig in even

deeper and join an all-day Eco-Ag U workshop and make your farming operation the best it can be. [Register today!](#)



Still need more reasons to join OAK?

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

With Member Benefits from partnering businesses and organizations, like AcresUSA, [Ohio Earth Food](#), [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 recently rolled out an all-new website which will, in addition to many other items, offer new tools for Membership Engagement. The possibilities are creating a buzz with Team OAK and we know you are going to love this new and easy way to connect with the greater OAK Community.

Current OAK Members, don't forget to update your member profile, create new log in information and connect easily and fluidly with each other. 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.

[Join OAK Today!](#)

**CSA Farms Apply Today and Connect with New Markets
through Employer Partner Wellness Programs**

KY Farm Share Coalition (KYFSC) is now accepting applications from produce CSA farms interested in joining the coalition for the 2023 season. KYFSC works with employers who want to offer a CSA incentive on a weekly local, organic vegetable box to their employees as a workplace wellness benefit. The program focuses on increasing access to fresh healthy foods for Kentuckians and stabilizing revenue for organic farms. In 2022, KYFSC worked with 16 employers to promote CSA opportunities, partnered with 7 CSA farms, and offered over 1000 workplace CSA vouchers to put towards CSA. In addition to coordinating the workplace CSA program, KYFSC offered 6 CSA chef demos, a CSA cooking class, and helped coordinate a spring and fall CSA promotion to spread the word about how to best store, cook, and use a weekly CSA share!

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and due by December 2, 2022, to participate in the 2023 season. If you are interested or have questions about the program, please reach out to discuss the opportunity! KYFSC Endorsed Farms must offer USDA certified organic produce shares for a minimum of 20 weeks. Farms can also be in documented active organic transition. Please see full endorsed farm criteria in the application through the link here. Questions? Contact Brooke Gentile at brooke@oak-ky.org.

Learn more and apply here



Get out and Vote KY!

Just checking in that you have a plan to Vote in next week's election. Make sure your voice is heard and plan to vote in the days ahead.

October-November 2022 Kentucky In-Person Voting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26 With Excuse	27 With Excuse	28 With Excuse	29
30	31 With Excuse	1 With Excuse	2 With Excuse	3 Early	4 Early	5 Early
6	7	8 Election Day	To check where you vote, go to elect.ky.gov and choose "Find my Polling Place"			

Dig into OAK's new Website!

OAK launched our new website last month, and while the dust is still settling, this long-awaited transformation is already keeping the OAK community better connected! OAK's new site is now connected to our events, registration, membership and communications, with streamlined systems for staying in touch and exciting options for resource sharing. We invite you to explore the new site. We will continue building out new community engagement tools so this new site can further support the work we are all doing to nourish Kentucky. In addition to the current pages, stay tuned for a Classifieds Page, OAK Online Store and Farmer Forums rolling out in the coming months!

Members, you now have a seamless connection to your Membership profile which includes membership history, capacity for auto renewal, member only access with quick links to current OAK Member benefits, and communication options to set newsletter preferences! Not an OAK Member? You too can access your profile and have the capacity to update contact information and newsletter subscriptions to stay connected.

If you haven't checked it out yet, you should!

[Check out OAK's new site](#)

Board of Directors is Accepting Candidate Nominations

Are you interested to serve as a Board Member for the Organic Association of Kentucky? Do you know someone who is the perfect candidate for OAK's Board of Directors? OAK seeks

candidates and is requesting your nominations. As a part of our community, you or someone you know may be the right person to bring their time and talent to serve in this important role. OAK's Board of Directors is selected by OAK membership each year and serves in 3-year terms. Nominations are accepted now through the beginning of November and OAK members vote for 3 candidates in January and February.

[Read more about being a Board Member and make a nomination here](#)

Interested to Go 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.

Good Giving Challenge: Nov 29 - Dec 2

We love participating in Good Giving Challenge hosted by the Blue Grass Community Foundation. Tune in this November 29 - December 2 for all the inspiration and ways to give. Get ready for five days of sharing program impacts and testimonials from Kentucky farmers. Share this giving opportunity with your friends and family that want to support thriving farm and food futures in Kentucky. A gift of any size has a huge impact on OAK's programs. Do you like the idea of the challenge? There are tons of fun match prizes and super funding bonuses for participating organizations. Email Brooke@oak-ky.org if you want to learn more and get involved.

[Donate Here on November 29th](#)

GOODGIVING
C H A L L E N G E

Educational & Farming Support

In-person Events Throughout the Region

Grower - Buyer Meet Up (Produce)

November 10, 2022, 10am-noon CT

Owensboro, KY

[More details and registration here.](#)

Farmer to Farmer Field Day

11/12/2022 11:00 AM - 01:00 PM ET

Box Farm, Millersburg, KY

Join Bluegrass Greensource and UK Cooperative Extension for this FREE event at Box Farm in Bourbon County for a day of networking with Central Kentucky farmers, to learn about best management practices, and how to implement them on your property.

Box Farm property tour by Charlotte Box. Lunch will be provided.

[Register here.](#)

Kentucky State University - Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference

November 15-17, 2022

Frankfort, KY

[More details here.](#)

Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

January 2-4, 2023

Bowling Green, KY

OAK staff invite you to join this event. We'll see you in the Organic Production track.

[More details and registration here.](#)

International Grassland Conference

Save the Date: May 14-19, 2023

Covington, KY

Scholarships available and due by December 30, 2022

[More details and registration here.](#)

Virtual Events

Webinar Series on Soil Health in Urban Agriculture

In collaboration with the NIFA OREI-funded Tomato Organic Management and Improvement and the Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture projects, eOrganic is offering a new 5-webinar series on nurturing soil health in urban agriculture! All webinars are free, and advance registration is required. Please register for as many webinars as you like at the links below! [More info here.](#)

November 2, 2022: Design and Management Strategies for Regenerating Healthy Soils Through Urban Agriculture.

[Register here](#)

November 9, 2022: Combining Soil Amendments and Varietal Development to Prevent Pathogens and Heavy Metal Uptake.

[Register here](#)

November 16: Understanding Laboratory Soil Health Tests: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?

[Register here](#)

Assessing Value-Added Dairy Business Expansion Online Workshops

November 2: Assessing Value-Added Dairy Business Expansion Webinar Series

November 16: Assessing Value-Added Dairy Business Expansion Webinar Series

November 30: Assessing Value-Added Dairy Business Expansion Webinar Series

[Register here.](#)

Kentucky Maple School

November 5, 2022 9 AM-12:00 PM ET

[Register here.](#)

The MarketReady Producer Training Program is a free (when held virtually), educational program for farmers and producers, processors, county extension agents, etc. interested in selling their products (fresh produce, value-added items, etc.) to restaurants.

[Find out more and register here.](#)

November 7: Virtual MarketReady Producer Training

November 9: Virtual MarketReady Producer Training

November 11: Virtual MarketReady Producer Training

2022 Midsouth Women's Virtual Herbal Conference

November 11-12, 2022

Join plant people, herbalists, gardeners, folk healers, holistic practitioners, and wise women from the Midsouth and beyond for a weekend of wisdom sharing, connection, herbal medicine classes, and storytelling. Workshop offerings will highlight plants, healing traditions, recipes, remedies, and even a few superstitious tales from Southern Folk Medicine.

[Register here](#)

Medicinal Trees Webinar with Leslie Williams RH(AHG), M.Ed.

Nov 15, 2022 at 08:00 PM ET

Look up! Trees offer amazing medicines - bark and twig and leaf and seed - and occasionally root. We will focus on trees growing in North America and their medicinal heritage, current research and herbal uses. Native trees, invasives, landscape trees and shrubs are important - and how and when to sustainably and ethically harvest tree medicine.

[Register here](#)

PSA -FSMA Grower Training Course - Remote

Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), co-management, and the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule should attend this virtual training

On-line training

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Registration Deadline November 1, 2022

[Register here.](#)

Use Your Numbers to Assess Profitability and Full Cost of Production

December 5, 12, 19, 2022 at 9 am - 12 pm ET

Registration is now open for this three-part winter course from OEFFA with farm consultant Ellen Polishuk of Plant to Profit! This course will build on the material covered in the introductory sessions in January and March 2022 (available [here](#)). Take a deep dive into your numbers from the season to understand your farm's costs of production and calculate fair prices and wages. [Register here](#)

Vegetable Farms Becoming the Employer of Choice

Motivating and managing employees is essential to most diversified vegetable farms, and rare is the farmer who comes to farming with those labor management skills. Whether you have worked with employees for many years or are in the early stages of hiring staff, this series will give you practical tools to make your farm an employer of choice. Please note that this program is for all vegetable farm owners and for hired managers with at least 10 years of experience.

Be prepared to attend online sessions with your camera on and ready to engage in discussions with your farmer peers. [Space is limited - register here.](#)

5 January from 9-11 AM CT: Strategic Leadership

9 January from 4-6 PM CT: Developing a Motivated Workforce

12 January from 9-11 AM CT: Hiring the Right People

16 January from 4-6 PM CT: Employee Onboarding and Training

19 January from 9-11 AM CT: Farm Business Culture

23 January from 4-6 PM CT: Reviews and Feedback

30 January from 4-6 PM CT: Becoming an Ethical H-2A Employer

2 February from 9-11 AM CT: Developing Intercultural Competence for Farm Employers

6 February from 4-6 PM CT: Managing Conflict

Resources and Funding for Farmers

A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

This new multi-agency guide for USDA assistance for underserved farmers and ranchers, is available online from USDA. If you are a farmer or rancher and are a minority, woman, veteran, beginning, or limited-resource producer, you can use this 40-page booklet to learn about assistance and targeted opportunities available to you. This includes programs offered through the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency. The guide is also available in Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese.

USDA announces assistance for on-farm food safety expenses for specialty crop growers

Application period opens: June 27, 2022

Apply at your local FSA office: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

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>

EKY Flood Damage Farm Equipment Program

A program for commercial farmers to repair/refurbish small-scale farm equipment damaged during the floods. If you would like to donate to this program, please send an email to info@kyhortcouncil.org. [Learn more and apply here](#)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)

Kentucky is accepting applications for EQIP through close of business on November 4, 2022. Conservation Incentive Contracts address priority resource concerns, including sequestering carbon and improving soil health in high-priority areas. Through these contracts, NRCS works with producers to strengthen the quality and condition of natural resources on their operations using management practices, such as irrigation water management, drainage water management, feed management and residue and tillage management that target resource concerns, including degraded soil and water quality, available water and soil erosion. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application batching "cut-off" or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities. To learn how to get started with NRCS, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted and contact your [local service center](#).

USDA Offers Assistance to Protect Privately-Owned Agricultural Lands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages people and groups wanting to protect agricultural lands to consider enrolling their property into conservation easements.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP - ALE) focuses on protecting and conserving productive agricultural lands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements. [Partners include state or local agencies and certain non-profits](#). Eligible lands include privately owned cropland, pastureland and forestlands. Landowners do not apply directly to NRCS for funding under this program. Applications from eligible entities for 2023 ACEP-ALE funding must be received by December 1, 2022 to be considered for the current funding cycle. Landowners who wish to be considered for ACEP-ALE must make application to an eligible entity.

Entities interested in agricultural easements should contact their [local USDA service center](#) or visit the [Kentucky NRCS ACEP-ALE website](#).

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.

Rural Energy for America Program - Grants and Guaranteed Loans

Funding Amount: \$1,500 to \$500,000 (25% of the total project cost)

Eligible Entities: Farmers and rural businesses

Link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-energy-audit-renewable-energy-development-assistance>

Overview: USDA Rural Development offers REAP grants and grant/loan combos to help agricultural producers and rural businesses install renewable energy systems and do efficiency upgrade projects. A grant only application can pay up to 25% of total project costs. A grant/loan combo can fund up to 75% of total project costs. Guaranteed loan only

applications do not have an application or funding deadline to be processed. Some project examples include: lighting efficiency, heating efficiency, bio-energy, solar energy, and dairy ventilation upgrades. An energy assessment or audit is required as part of the application process. If you are interested, you need to inquire as soon as possible. The October 31 due date prioritizes "restricted" or smaller projects that have total project cost of \$80,000 or less (and are requesting \$20,000 or less in grant funds). Fall is the best time for small projects to apply!

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](#)



Stay in touch:

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