



**2024**

**Kentucky**

**Fruit & Vegetable  
Conference**

**Sloan Convention Center  
Bowling Green, KY**

**January 3-4, 2024**

*Elan White*



*Financing to keep you*  
**GROWING.**

**CENTRAL KENTUCKY AG CREDIT IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2024 KENTUCKY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONFERENCE.**

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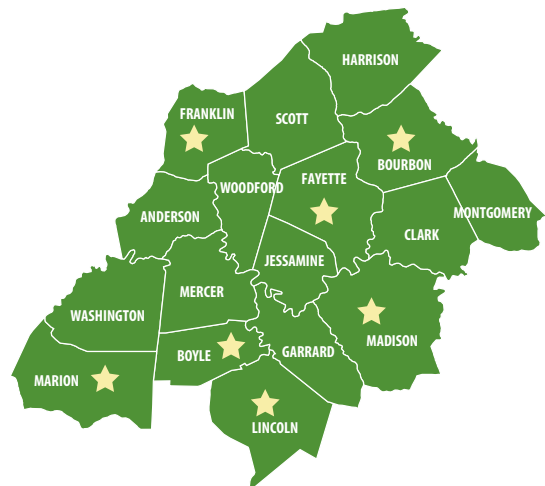
FARMS | LIVESTOCK | EQUIPMENT  
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**ABOUT CENTRAL KENTUCKY AG CREDIT**

Central Kentucky Ag Credit has been providing lending support to farmers and rural residents in the Bluegrass since 1934. Ag Credit's primary purpose is to provide loans and related financial services to the agricultural industry, however we also provide mortgage financing for rural homeowners.

**A TRUE COOPERATIVE**

Central Kentucky Ag Credit is customer-owned and customer-focused, so you can expect the best. Eligible customers share in Ag Credit's profits in the form of patronage checks, more than \$41 Million in patronage has been distributed since 1998! You also have the opportunity to elect neighbors in your local community to serve on our Board of Directors- or serve on the Board yourself.



[AgCreditOnline.com](http://AgCreditOnline.com)



NMLS# 604727

# 2024

# Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

**Kentucky State Horticultural Society**  
**168th Annual Meeting**

**Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association**  
**53rd Annual Meeting**

**Organic Association of Kentucky**  
and  
**Kentucky Horticulture Council**

In cooperation with  
University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Communities and the Environment  
and  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture

## January 3-4, 2024

Sloan Convention Center  
Bowling Green, KY



# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

All Times are Central Standard Time

## Tuesday, January 2 — Pre-Conference Sessions

3:00–9:00 p.m.	Registration	Front Foyer
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Bringing the Farm To School Grower Training	Salon B
4:00–7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market Short Course	Meeting Room 1&2
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop	Meeting Room 3&4
6:00-9:00 p.m.	Urban & Small Farms Meet & Greet	Hotel Bar Area
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Vegetable Meet & Greet	Meeting Room 5
7:30-8:30 p.m.	Tree & Small Fruit Meet & Greet	Meeting Room 5
3:00-9:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-up	Foyers, Ballroom D

## Wednesday, January 3 — Conference Sessions

8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:45 a.m.	General Session, Ballrooms A & B
10:30 a.m.	Break
12:00 p.m.	Exhibitor/Grower Luncheon Ballroom C
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Direct Marketing, Ballroom A Tree Fruit Production, Ballroom B Vegetable Production for Experienced Growers, Ballroom C Beginning Farmers, Meeting Rms 1&2 Greenhouse Production, Meeting Room 5
2:30 p.m.	Break
5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Close
5:20 p.m.	Kentucky Strawberry Association Meeting, Ballroom C
6:00 p.m.	AgVets Meet & Greet, Hotel Bar Area

## Thursday, January 4 — Conference Sessions

8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions Organic Production, Ballroom A Tree Fruit Production for Experienced Growers, Ballroom B Beginning Vegetable Production, Ballroom C Specialty Cut Flower Short Course, Meeting Rooms 1&2 Marketing & Business Management, Meeting Rooms 3&4 High Tunnel Production, Meeting Room 5
10:00 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m.	Wednesday Luncheon Ballroom C
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Funding Opportunities, Ballroom A Small Fruit Production, Ballroom B Urban & Small-Scale Farming, Ballroom C Specialty Cut Flower Short Course, Meeting Rooms 1&2 Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Reports, Meeting Rooms 3&4
3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Closes
3:40 p.m.	Conference Concludes

Dear Fruit and Vegetable Growers:

The 2024 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held in-person at the Holiday Inn Sloan Convention Center, in Bowling Green, KY, on **Wednesday and Thursday, January 3 and 4, 2024**. You may pre-register by mail or online (<https://2024KYFruitVegConf.eventbrite.com>).

The event will begin on Tuesday, January 2 with a pre-conference Farmers Market Short Course, Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop, and a Bringing the Farm to School Grower Training followed by Vegetable and Tree and Small Fruit Round Table Discussions.

Conference sessions include Direct Marketing, Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Production, Organic Production, Protected Ag (High Tunnel) Production, Marketing and Business Management, a Cut Flower Short Course and more new educational tracks. We have many growers on the program as well as a number of excellent out-of-state speakers this year and our trade show will feature more than 60 exhibitors.

Note that registration includes the Exhibitor/Grower (Wednesday) and Conference (Thursday) Luncheons planned featuring Kentucky Proud products. A Trading Post bulletin board will be available to sell used equipment, so bring along any descriptions containing your name, phone number, and the equipment price for posting.

PLEASE make your room reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-HOLIDAY using the **block code FVC** or using the [group booking link](#). Our block of rooms will be held until December 15, 2023. After this date, room prices will be higher. Be sure to let the hotel know that you will be staying for the Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference to obtain our special room rate for a single or double of \$107.95. If you find that the block of rooms at our conference rate is full on or before December 15, please call Angela Price (270-393-8668) only to increase the number of rooms that we have blocked. The room cost includes an evening manager's reception with drinks and two breakfast vouchers. We encourage growers to stay at the Holiday Inn adjacent to the Conference Center to help cover meeting overhead expenses.

The \$50 meeting pre-registration fee or \$75 registration on site includes a year's membership in the KVGA, KSHS, or OAK and entrance into all educational sessions as well as lunch on both days. Pre-registration means your tickets and name tag will be ready for you at the registration table when you arrive at the meeting. Name badges will be required to enter meeting rooms. Pre-registration forms or online registrations need to be in our hands by Friday, December 15, 2023. After this date you may continue to register online or on-site at the conference at the \$75 rate. Phone registrations will not be accepted.

NOTE: we strongly urge you to pre-register as on-site registration will be \$75 and luncheon tickets may not be available.

If you would like to serve on the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association (KVGA) or Kentucky State Horticultural Society (KSHS) boards of directors or would like to nominate another member, please designate this at registration.

If you are unable to attend and you would like to remain a member of the KVGA, KSHS, or OAK, please complete online registration or return the registration form with a check to KHC, PO Box 21736, Lexington, KY 40522-1736 to continue your association membership.

We are committed to hosting a safe and enjoyable Conference, so please check the Conference website (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2024-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>) for additional information about meeting precautions and any meeting updates.

Sincerely,

*Shubin Saha*

Shubin Saha, President  
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

*Kevan Evans*

Kevan Evans, President  
Kentucky State Horticultural Society

# BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

## KY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President: Kevan Evans, Georgetown  
Vice-President: David Haney, Nancy  
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Treasurer: Amanda Gajdzik, Shelbyville  
Directors:  
Brandon Barnett, Cynthiana  
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Adam Jones, Morgantown  
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Daniel Becker, Princeton  
Cindy Finneseth, Corbin  
Kirk Pomper, Frankfort  
Jonathan Price, Bowling Green  
Caroline Roush, Morehead  
John Strang, Lexington  
Shawn Wright, Jackson



## KY VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President: Shubin Saha, Stanford  
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Cindy Finneseth, Corbin  
Annette Meyer-Heisdorffer, Owensboro  
Rachel Rudolph, Lexington  
John Strang, Lexington  
Shawn Wright, Jackson



Are you interested in serving on the board of one of Kentucky's prestigious produce organizations?

You can indicate your interest at registration or contact the organization's current president with any questions:

### **Kentucky State Horticultural Society**

Kevan Evans (Kevan@evansorchard.com)

### **Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association**

Shubin Saha (s.saha@kyfreshharvest.com)

Why join the board of directors of KSHS or KVGA?

- Support your industry
- Expand your network
- Develop knowledge and skills to advance your business
- Influence policy decisions

Being a board member is an important responsibility and can have a tremendous positive impact on your personal business!

# BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Steve Muntz, Firefly Farm, Montgomery County  
Vice-Chair: Amber Sciligo, The Organic Center, Fayette County  
Exec. Director: Brooke Gentile, Fayette County  
Secretary: Bryce Baumann, Lazy Eight Stock Farm, Madison County  
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Directors: Maggie Dungan, Salad Days Farm, Woodford County  
Sarah Fritschner, Grow Kentucky, Jefferson County  
Kyle Johnson, J&J Farms, McCracken County  
Andrew Oles, Berea College Farm, Madison County  
Julia Sampson, Consultant, Washington County (outside of KY in Arkansas)  
SaraVard Von Gruenigen, Central Kentucky Ag Credit, Garrard County  
Advisors: Sean Clark, Berea College, Madison County  
David Gonthier, UK, Fayette County  
Krista Jacobsen, UK, Anderson County  
David Koester, UK, Boone County  
Shawn Lucas, KSU, Fayette County  
Rachel Rudolph, UK, Fayette County  
Mark Williams, UK, Fayette County



## We Know Ag

Ag Credit professionals understand farming and crop production. That includes special financing needs of fruit and vegetable growers.

Central Kentucky Ag Credit is the best financial partner you will find.

Loans for land, farms, homes in the country and so much more!



[AgCreditOnline.com](http://AgCreditOnline.com)

# PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

All Times Are Central Standard Time

4:00-6:00 p.m.      **FARMERS MARKET SHORT COURSE**

Kate Hamilton and Sharon Spencer Presiding, Meeting Rooms 1&2

*Are you a farmers' market leader, farmers' market vendor or even just someone thinking about selling at a farmers' market? Join us for the pre-conference session for an engaging and interactive short course on farmers' markets. Come learn how to grow your market and grow your individual sales. Learn about new changes for 2024 for the farmers' market program, funding opportunities and updates from the farmers' market nutritional programs (Senior and WIC). But that's not all, from our partners at UK learn about the updated Farmers' Market Toolkit and hear about the average prices at the markets and the 2023 production input survey. Lots of good information to take back to your markets.*

4:00-6:00 p.m.      **FARM FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP**

Bryan Brady and Courtney Bartlett, Presiding, Meeting Rooms 3&4

*Attention to food safety is critical to your farm's reputation. GAPs audits are becoming a standard requirement for many buyers of Kentucky produce crops and can give you a competitive advantage when selling. To help Kentucky growers focus on food safety and access markets that require third-party audit certification, we are offering a workshop focused on writing a farm food safety plan. The session will include an overview of different GAPs audits and details about on-farm technical assistance. You will learn the main structural components of a food safety plan such as standard operating procedures (SOPs), common food safety policies, and how to keep records efficiently. We will work through SOP and recordkeeping templates, and you will even get to write some specific to your operation with hands-on assistance. If you have a laptop, bring it along to work on the templates digitally. The format will be very interactive with opportunities to discuss challenges and develop solutions with experts.*

4:00-6:00 p.m.      **BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL GROWER TRAINING**

Laurie White, Presiding, Salon B

*Are you a KY producer interested in selling to school markets? We invite you to attend our Bringing the Farm to School Grower Training program. The Bringing the Farm to School curriculum is a series for ag producers from the National Farm to School Network meant to prepare producers to sell to school markets. With our KY spin, we hope you'll walk away feeling ready to approach your local school! All agriculture producers are invited to attend the training.*

6:30-7:30 p.m.      **VEGETABLE MEET & GREET**

Rachel Rudolph, Presiding, Meeting Room 5

7:30-8:30 p.m.      **TREE & SMALL FRUIT MEET & GREET**

Brent Arnoldussen, Presiding, Meeting Room 5

6:00-9:00 p.m.      **URBAN & SMALL FARM GROWER MEET & GREET**

*Are you an urban or small-scale grower currently engaged in or interested in learning more about how to start or expand a produce or horticulture business in Kentucky? Stop by the Meet & Greet in the hotel lobby/bar area, open to all urban & small-scale growers and technical service providers. It's a casual come-and-go-as-you-please pre-conference event.*

5:00-9:00 p.m.      **Exhibitor Set-up — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**



# GENERAL SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

All Times are Central Standard Time

## (1) General Session

Ballrooms A & B

Shubin Saha, Presiding

- 9:00 a.m. 2024 Fruit & Vegetable Conference Welcome — Kevan Evans
- 9:10 a.m. Kentucky Horticulture Council Update — Cindy Finneseth
- 9:25 a.m. University of Kentucky Horticulture Department Update — Mark Williams
- 9:35 a.m. Kentucky State University Update — Kirk Pomper
- 9:45 a.m. Kentucky Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Update — Ryan Burnette
- 10:00 a.m. Kentucky Office of Ag Policy Updates — Brian Lacefield (invited)
- 10:20 a.m. Let's Grow Together Consortium — Trevor Terry
- 10:40 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D
- 11:00 a.m. Spotted Lanternfly: Considerations for Growers — Jonathan Larson
- 11:30 a.m. Wildlife Control for Specialty Crop Growers —  
Clint Quarles and Tommy Apostolopoulos
- 12:00 p.m. KSHS and KVGA BOARD MEETINGS  
*KSHS and KVGA board members should pick up their lunch at the buffet in Ballroom C and then meet in the designated room.*  
Kentucky State Horticultural Society – Meeting Rooms 3 & 4  
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association – Board Room
- 12:00 p.m. EXHIBITOR/GROWER LUNCHEON — Ballroom C

# WEDNESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 3

4 CONCURRENT SESSIONS — All times are Central Standard Time

*Concurrent sessions enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## (2) DIRECT MARKETING

Ballroom A

Sharon Spencer, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Propagate Profits Through On-Farm Retail — Megan Bruch Leffew
- 2:00 p.m. *Continued*
- 2:30 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 3:10 p.m. Adding Value to Your Farm Operation with Meat Sales — Gregg Rentfrow
- 3:40 p.m. Kentucky Local Food Consumer Insights: 2024 Edition — Emily Spencer, Brett Wolff, Tim Woods
- 4:10 p.m. Moving Your Business Forward – Helpful Financial and Marketing Tips — Amanda Kelly
- 4:40 p.m. *Continued*

## (4) VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FOR EXPERIENCED GROWERS

Ballroom C

Kathryn Pettigrew, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Cantaloupe and specialty melon production and cultivars — Wenjing Guan
- 2:00 p.m. Management Strategies and Options for Bacterial Wilt in Cucurbits — Nicole Gauthier
- 2:30 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 3:10 p.m. Pollination: What You Need to Know for Vegetable Production — Ric Bessin
- 3:40 p.m. Corn Silk Worm in 2023 — Ric Bessin
- 4:10 p.m. New Vegetable Cultivars for 2024 — Logan Cecil and Kevin Hosey
- 5:20 p.m. KY Strawberry Association Meeting

## (3) TREE FRUIT PRODUCTION

Ballroom B

Kelly Jackson, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Pawpaw Update — Kirk Pomper
- 2:00 p.m. Rootstocks and Training Systems for Tree Fruits — Brent Arnoldussen
- 2:30 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 3:10 p.m. Tall Spindle Apple Production — John Strang
- 3:40 p.m. Frost & Freeze: What's A Grower to Do? — Dave Lockwood
- 4:10 p.m. Production of Less Common Tree Crops — Shawn Wright
- 4:40 p.m. Revisiting Old Pests: Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth — Ric Bessin

## (5) BEGINNING FARMER BASICS

Meeting Rooms 1&2

Delia Scott, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Beginning Farmer Resources — Delia Scott
- 2:00 p.m. Producer Perspective — Jacob Abbott
- 2:30 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 3:10 p.m. What Your Soil Can Do For You — Becky Gilfillen
- 3:40 p.m. USDA NRCS Opportunities for New and Beginning Farmers — Jeran Lane and Katie Smith
- 4:10 p.m. Business Basics — Spencer Guinn
- 4:40 p.m. Introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) — Jonathan Larson

# WEDNESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, JANUARY 3

All Times are Central Standard Time

## (6) GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

Meeting Room 5

Arundathi Sharma, Presiding

5:00 p.m. Exhibits Close

- 1:30 p.m. Greenhouse Water Management —  
Kenny Imel
- 2:00 p.m. Managing Pathogens in a Closed Loop  
Greenhouse Irrigation Systems —  
Shubin Saha
- 2:30 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits  
— Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 3:10 p.m. A Comparative Analysis of Hydroponic  
and Conventional Blueberry Cultivation  
— Robby Dostart
- 3:40 p.m. Crop Planning and Budgeting —  
Spencer Guinn
- 4:10 p.m. Ask Me Anything: Greenhouse Grower  
Panel — Chad Cagle, Erik Nijboer,  
Shubin Saha
- 4:40 p.m. Greenhouse/CEA Extension Updates —  
Casey Byrd

6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. **AgVets Meet & Greet**

Are you a veteran or transitioning service member currently engaged in or interested in learning more about how to start, or expand, a produce or horticulture business in Kentucky? Join the Kentucky AgVet partners for an evening Meet & Greet with other veterans and technical service providers. It's a casual come-and-go as you please event after the sessions. Look for the signs in the hotel lobby!



## WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE AGVETS PROGRAM?

- Any veteran or transitioning service member who is interested in learning more about how to start or expand an agriculture business in the state of Kentucky.
- Transitioning service members who are interested in participating in an internship or CSP program through Fort Campbell or Fort Knox during their last 6 months of active duty.

# THURSDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4 — All times are Central Standard Time

8:00 a.m. Exhibits Open — Foyer areas and Ballroom D

8:00 a.m. Registration — outside Ballrooms A&B

## 6 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

### (7) ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Ballroom A

Brooke Gentile, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Cover Crops: Varieties, Timing, and Termination for Weed Suppression — Jackson Rolett
- 9:00 a.m. Organic Transition: Incentives, Resources, Mentorship — Kenya Abraham and NRCS
- 9:30 a.m. Digging into Sustainability Data with Farmers: Lessons from the Field for Incentivizing Climate-Smart Practices — Annie Woods and Robin Verson
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 10:40 a.m. On-Farm Biochar Basics — Adam Barr
- 11:10 a.m. Practical Pollinator Program for Produce Farms — Kevin Archer

### (8) TREE FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR EXPERIENCED GROWERS

Ballroom B

Beth Wilson, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Precision Crop Load Management In Apples — Brent Arnoldussen
- 9:00 a.m. Soil & Foliar Sampling — Daniel Becker
- 9:30 a.m. *continued*
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 10:40 a.m. Reducing Post Harvest Loss in Tree Fruit Production — Dave Lockwood
- 11:10 a.m. KSHS Annual Business Meeting

### (9) BEGINNING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Ballroom C

Ray Tackett, Presiding

- 8:00 a.m. KVGA Annual Business Meeting
- 8:30 a.m. Broccoli and Biopesticides: Pains, Gains, and Essential Oil Insights — Sarah Clark
- 9:00 a.m. Watermelon Production Basics — Wenjing Guan
- 9:30 a.m. Mildew and You: Understanding Downy vs. Powdery — Nicole Gauthier
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 10:40 a.m. On-Farm Water Management Grower Panel — Kenya Abraham, Zeldon Angel, Cindy Finneseth, and Ford Waterstrat
- 11:10 a.m. *continued*

### (10) CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE

Meeting Rooms 1&2

Alexis Sheffield, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Blooming Opportunities: Digging Up Opportunities for Your Business — Angella Watson
- 9:00 a.m. UK - Who's That Bug: ID and Scouting Tips — Jonathan Larson
- 9:30 a.m. Maximizing Cut Flower Profits Through the Inclusion Of Dual-Purpose Vegetable Varieties — Eva Bogue and Anna Claire Griggs
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 10:40 a.m. Are Hardy Annuals Hard to Grow? — Tara Watkins
- 11:10 a.m. It's a Bug Eat Bug World: Biological Control Basics — Jonathan Larson

# THURSDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4 — All times are Central Standard Time

## 6 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

### (11) MARKETING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Meeting Room 3&4  
Emily Spencer, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Finding Your Market — Savannah Columbia
- 9:00 a.m. Sowing Seeds for Success: How to Get More Kentucky-Grown Food into Institutions — Brandi Button Johnson, Faye Kuosman, Heather Graham, and Ashton Potter-Wright
- 9:30 a.m. Britain's Best: Tim's Top 10 Local Consumer Connection Innovations — Tim Woods
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Foyer Areas and Ballroom D**
- 10:40 a.m. Small Business Resources for Agripreneurs — Danielle Milbern and Victoria Wood
- 11:10 a.m. Conservation Agriculture Adoption: Quantifying the Benefits and Costs of Soil Health Practices — Aysha Tapp-Ross

### (12) HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION

Meeting Room 5  
Jessica Wells, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Winter Production: Successes, Struggles, and Considerations Grower Panel — Tony Silvernail, John Bell, and Nathan Howell
- 9:00 a.m. *continued*
- 9:30 a.m. Using Row Cover for Low and Meso Tunnels — Dave Gonthier
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits**
- 10:40 a.m. Irrigating in High Tunnels: Watering Methods and Management Highlighting Micro Drip Irrigation — Kayla Preston
- 11:10 a.m. High Tunnel Lettuce Production: Planting Dates, Fertility, Cultivars, and Management — Rachel Rudolph
- 11:45 a.m. TUESDAY LUNCHEON — Ballroom C

# THURSDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 4 — All times are Central Standard Time

## 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

### (13) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ballroom A

Bethany Prekopa-Cox, Presiding

### (14) SMALL FRUIT PRODUCTION

Ballroom B

Darrell Simpson, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Climate Smart Farming and Marketing Project — Organic Association of KY
- 1:40 p.m. Regional Food Business Center Programs — KY Center for Ag and Rural Development / Community Farm Alliance
- 1:50 p.m. Regional Food Systems Infrastructure Program in KY — KY Department of Agriculture
- 2:00 p.m. Local Food Purchasing Program — Lynsey Crumbie
- 2:10 p.m. KDA: Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program — Kacy McLean-Hillard
- 2:20 p.m. On-Farm Water & Good Agricultural Practices Cost-Share Programs — Cindy Finneseth
- 2:30 p.m. CAIP, KY Ag Development Board and KY Ag Finance Corporation Programs — KY Office of Ag Policy
- 2:40 p.m. Bluegrass AgTech Challenge Grant Program — Bluegrass AgTech Development Corporation (invited)
- 2:50 p.m. Energy Efficiency & Solar Projects — Mountain Association (remote)
- 3:00 p.m. KSU Small-Scale Farms Grant — Joni Nelson
- 3:10 p.m. Point of Sale Processing Equipment — MarketLink
- 3:20 p.m. Programs for Agripreneurs, including the Kentucky Small Business Credit Initiative (KSBCI) — KY Cabinet for Economic Development
- 3:30 p.m. USDA NRCS Program Opportunities — Michael Zachary

- 1:30 p.m. Row Covers and Frost Protection for Kentucky Strawberry Growers — Danny VanMeter
- 2:00 p.m. Improving Annual Plasticulture Strawberry Systems in Kentucky — Viktor Halmos
- 2:30 p.m. Alley Cropping with Elderberry: Our Process and Some Lessons Learned Along with the Blessings and Burdens of Medium Scale Production — Oakes Routt
- 3:10 p.m. Establishing Blueberries on Higher pH Soils in Eastern Kentucky — Alyssa Covell and Jayme Parks

### (15) URBAN AND SMALL-SCALE FARMING

Ballroom C

Myrisa Christy, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Important Things to Know When Starting an Urban Farm — Anjelica Lusco
- 2:00 p.m. Tips for Small-Scale Organic Farming — Keith McKenzie
- 2:30 p.m. Connecting Urban & Small-Scale Farms With Mid- to Large- Scale Markets — Brandi Button-Johnson
- 3:10 p.m. Urban & Small Scale Farming Grower Panel

# THURSDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 4 — All times are Central Standard Time

## 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

### (16) CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE

Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Kristin Hildabrand, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Tips and Tricks for High Tunnel Growing — Alexis Sheffield
- 2:00 p.m. Kentucky Cut Flower Wholesale Collectives — SOKY Floral Exchange and Kentucky Flower Market
- 2:30 p.m. Making the Workshop Work for You — Savannah Columbia
- 3:10 p.m. Inviting the Public to Your Farm: What You Need to Know — Michelle Wheeler

### (17) SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROJECT REPORTS

Meeting Rooms 3 & 4

Brett McQueary, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Defining Best Production Methods for Quality Sparkling Wine and Cider — Jeffrey Wheeler
- 1:45 p.m. A remedy for insect and bird pests: Fine mesh netting canopies can be easy for use in direct to market and you-pick berries — David Gonthier
- 2:00 p.m. Kentucky's Organic Specialty Crops: Increasing Grower Competitiveness and Consumer Demand — Brooke Gentile
- 2:15 p.m. Salad for All Seasons: Building Capacity for Year-Round Leafy Green Production in Kentucky — Krista Jacobsen
- 2:30 p.m. Adding Value to Kentucky Wines: Creation of the Kentucky Wine Technical Group — Carlos Rodriguez Lopez
- 2:45 p.m. Production of high value pharmaceuticals by cultivation of *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood) — Jeff Kinney
- 3:00 p.m. KY State Fair Vegetable Room Upgrades — Ryan Burnette
- 3:15 p.m. Kentucky Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: Tips and Keys for Success — Dave Morris and Brett McQueary

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Jacob Abbott, Grower, Abbott Acres Farm, Belton, KY

Kenya Abraham, Grower, SLAK Market Farm, Lexington, KY

Zeldon Angel, Grower, Angel Farms, Winchester, KY

Tommy Apostolopoulos, Deer Biologist, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, KY

Kevin Archer, Grower, Dandelion Ridge Farm, Versailles, KY

Dr. Brent Arnoldussen, Extension Fruit Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Adam Barr, Grower, Barr Farms, Rhodelia, KY

Courtney Bartlett, Extension Associate, Cultivate Kentucky, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Daniel Becker, Small Fruit and Vegetable Extension Associate, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY

John Bell, Grower, Elmwood Stock Farm, Georgetown, KY

Dr. Ric Bessin, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Eva Bogue, Student, Murray State University, Murray, KY

Bryan Brady, Extension Associate Sr., Cultivate Kentucky, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Megan Bruch Leffew, Extension Specialist, Center for Profitable Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Columbia, TN

Ryan Burnette, Director – Plant Division, KY Dept. of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Brandi Button-Johnson, Western

Kentucky Value Chain Coordinator, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Casey Byrd, Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Chad Cagle, Head Grower, Bell Nursery, Paris, KY

Kayla Carey, Grower, Rookery Flower Co., and Co-Founder, KY Flower Market, Frankfort, KY

Logan Cecil, Sales Representative, Clifton Seed Company, Faison, NC

Myrisa Christy, Project and Development Specialist, KY Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), Elizabethtown, KY

Sarah Clark, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Savannah Columbia, Extension Associate, University of KY Dept. of Ag Economics, Lexington, KY

Alyssa Covell, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Bethany Cox, Direct Marketing Program Manager, KY Horticulture Council, Covington, KY

Amy Crone, MarketLink: a program of the National Association of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (NAFMNP), Alexandria, VA

Lynsey Crumbie, Grants LFPA & TEFAP Grants Administrator, Division of Food Distribution KY Department of Agriculture Office of Consumer & Environmental Protection, Frankfort, KY

Robby Dostart, Student, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

Kevan Evans, President, KY State Horticultural Society (KSHS) and Grower, Evans Orchard and Cider Mill, Georgetown, KY

Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Executive Director, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Lexington, KY

Ariel Fugate, Mountain Association, Berea, Hazard, and Prestonsburg, KY

Dr. Nicole Gauthier, Extension Plant Pathologist, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Brooke Gentile, Executive Director, Organic Association of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Dr. Becky Gilfillen, Professor of Agronomy, Western KY University, Bowling Green, KY

Dr. Dave Gonthier, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Heather Graham, Eastern Kentucky Value Chain Coordinator, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Anna Claire Griggs, Student, Murray State University, Murray, KY

Dr. Wenjing Guan, Associate Professor, Purdue University, Vincennes, IN

Spencer Guinn, Business Specialist, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), Elizabethtown, KY

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Kate Hamilton, Farmers Markets, KY Department of Ag, Frankfort, KY

Kristin Hildabrand, Warren County Extension Agent for Horticulture, Bowling Green KY

Kevin Hosey, Sales Representative, Seedway, Hall, NY

Nathan Howell, Grower, Need More Acres Farm, Scottsville, KY



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Emily Hunt, Grower, Southern KY (SOKY) Floral Exchange

Kenny Imel, Grower, Imel's Greenhouse, Greenup, KY

Kelly Jackson, Horticulture Agent, Christian Co Cooperative Extension Service, Hopkinsville, KY

Dr. Krista Jacobsen, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Amanda Kelly, Small Business Training Director, Southeast KY Economic Development Corporation (SKED), Somerset, KY

Jeff Kinney, Scientist, Kentucky Tobacco Research & Development Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Faye Kuosman, Central Kentucky Value Chain Coordinator, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Brian Lacefield, Executive Director, KY Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Office of Ag Policy, Frankfort, KY

Jeran Lane, Soil Conservation Technician, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Morgantown, KY

Dr. Jonathan Larson, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Dr. Dave Lockwood, Extension Fruit and Nut Crops Specialist, Plant and Soil Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Anjelica Lusco, Owner, Leo's Urban Farm / Leo's Juice, Louisville, KY

Keith McKenzie, Grower, Knob Hill Farm, Hudson, KY

Kacy McLean-Hillard, LFS & Farm to School Grants Administrator, Division of Food Distribution, Kentucky Department of Ag Office of Consumer & Environmental Protection, Frankfort, KY

Brett McQueary, Program Coordinator Specialty Crop Block Grants, Office of Agriculture Marketing, KY Dept. of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Danielle Milbern, AgTech Project Manager, KY Cabinet for Economic Development, Frankfort, KY

Dakota Moore, Grower Outreach Coordinator, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Murray, KY

David Morris, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Agricultural Marketing, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Joni Nelson, Manager, Center of Sustainability of Farms and Families, KY State University, Frankfort, KY

Erik Nijboer, Senior Grower, FoodVentures, Kentucky

Jayme Parks, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Kathryn Pettigrew, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Dr. Kirk Pomper, Director of Land Grant Programs; Dean and Professor College of Agriculture, Community and the Sciences, Cooperative Extension Building, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

Dr. Ashton Potter-Wright, Executive Director, The Food Connection, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Kayla Preston, Social Enterprise Manager, Grow Appalachia, Berea, KY

Clint Quarles, Attorney, KY Dept. of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, Extension Meat Specialist/Assistant Professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Dr. Carlos Rodriguez Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Jackson Rolett, Grower, Apostles Garden, Bowling Green, KY, and No-Till Growers

Oakes Routt, Grower, Grandview Farm, Hodgenville, KY

Dr. Rachel Rudolph, Assistant Professor and Extension Vegetable Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Dr. Shubin Saha, President, Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, and Chief Operating Officer, Kentucky Fresh Harvest, Stanford, KY

Delia Scott, Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Arundathi Sharma, Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Alexis Sheffield, Horticulture Agent, Boyle County Cooperative Extension Service, Danville, KY

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Katie Smith, Soil Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bowling Green, KY

Tonya Smith, Grower, Gateway Vineyard and Permaculture & Soil Education Outreach, Park City, KY

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Jennifer Spurling, Grower, Southern  
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Angella Watson, KY Beginning  
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Michelle Wheeler, Grower, River Bend  
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National Farmers Union  
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Rob.caldwell@warnerpackaging.com  
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jeff@watersag.com  
chad@watersag.com  
www.watersag.com

Wright Implement  
1330 Plano Rd.  
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270-781-4747  
mgrimes@wrightimp.com  
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## LITERATURE EXHIBITORS

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sales@glaciervalleyenterprise.com

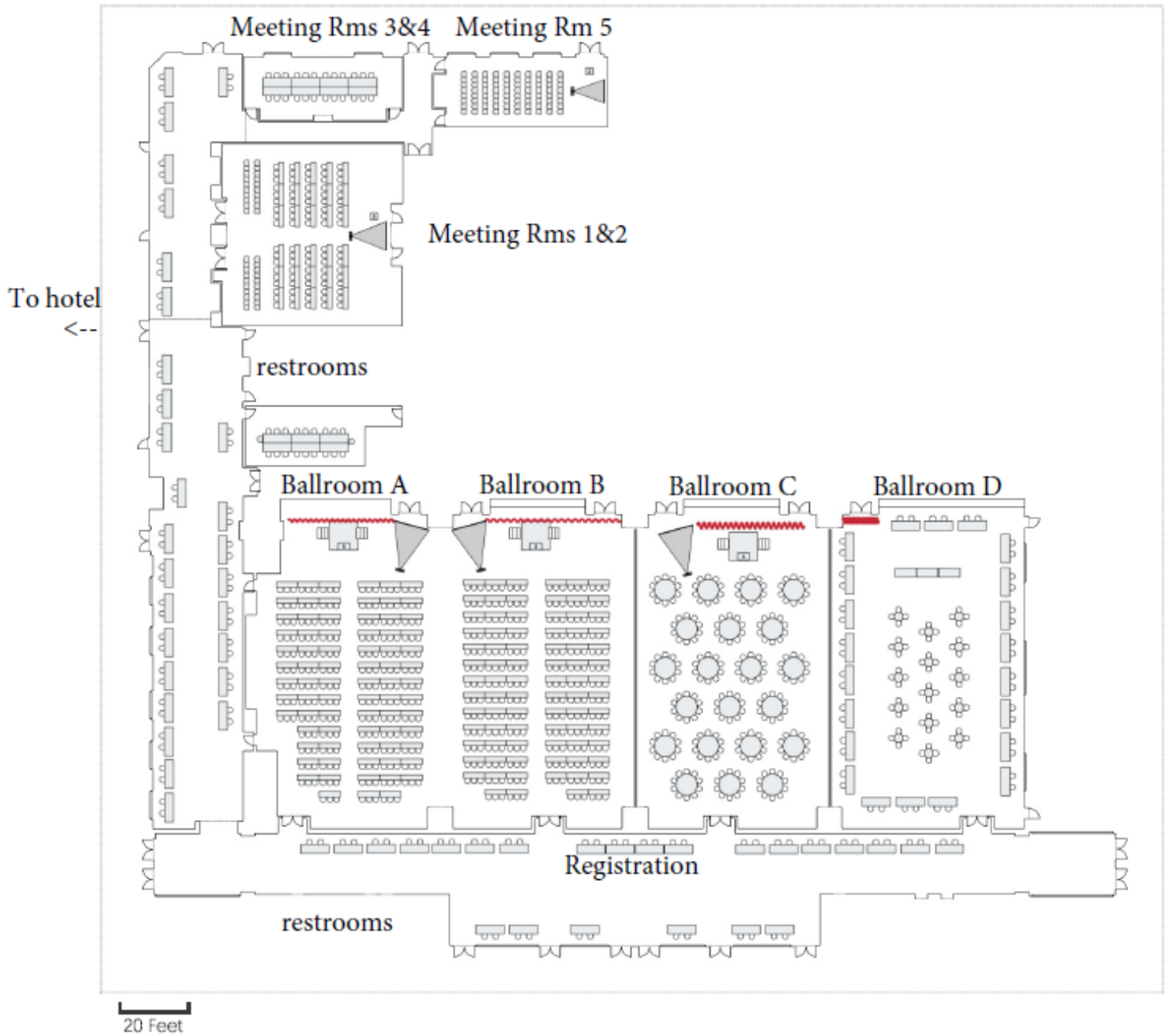
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41 River Road  
South Deerfield, MA 01373  
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# HOTEL MAP





**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION - 2024 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference**  
**Holiday Inn/Slone Conference Center, Bowling Green, KY**  
**January 3-4, 2024**

Online preregistration: <https://2024KYFruitVegConf.eventbrite.com>

Mark one:       REGISTRATION  
 I am not able to attend--please continue my membership(s) as listed below.

NAME (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION/FIRM \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please List Name(s) of Additional Registrants:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in being considered as a board member in:  
 KSHS (fruit growers)    KVGA (vegetable growers)

Please let us know if you are a:

Grower  
 Extension Agent  
 Commercial Pesticide Applicator  
 Other

Please check if you are a US Veteran

What are your top 3 research needs?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration is complimentary for students and children under 15 years of age. A SEPARATE FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH REGISTRANT EXCEPT FOR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN. Please copy form if needed. You can also print forms from the Conference website (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2024-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>). Registration questions, call: 859-490-0889 or email: [info@kyhortcouncil.org](mailto:info@kyhortcouncil.org).*

**2024 MEETING REGISTRATION**

<i>Indicate the number of registrations and total amount.</i>	Number	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kentucky State Horticultural Society</b> <i>annual membership in KSHS (fruit growers) &amp; meeting registration</i>		
Number attending x \$50 each	_____ X \$50	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association</b> <i>annual membership in KVGA (veg growers) &amp; meeting registration</i>		
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Number attending x \$50 each	_____ X \$50	_____
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**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

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***Please note that the Conference is the first Tuesday and Wednesday of January and lunches are included in the registration fee***

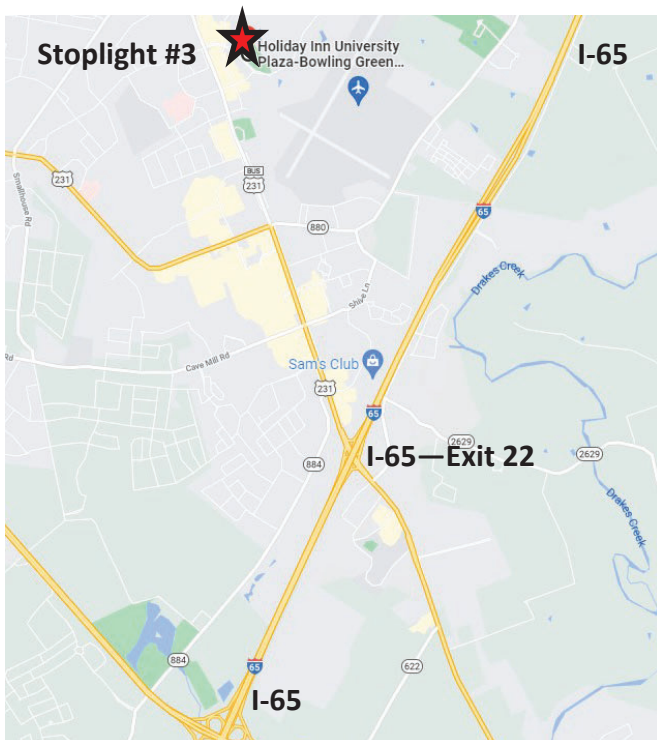


**Kentucky Vegetable  
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**Directions to Sloan Convention Center at the  
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**From Interstate 65:** Take Exit 22 and turn north toward the city of Bowling Green. Travel approximately two miles and turn right at the stoplight with #3 indicator.

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