

# 2025 Kentucky Fruit And Vegetable Conference

LEXINGTON, KY JANUARY 6-7

### **Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference**

Kentucky State Horticultural Society 169th Annual Meeting

Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association 54nd 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 6-7, 2025

Pre-Conference Events January 5, 2025 Marriott Griffin Gate Lexington, KY











KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY



Kentucky Department of Agriculture

# CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

	Sunday,	Monday, January 6		Tuesday,	
	January 5			January 7	
	Evening	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Salon A & B	Tradeshow Set-up	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow
Salon C	Bringing the Farm to School Workshop		Direct Marketing	Organic Production	Marketing & Business Management
Salon D	Farmers Market Short Course	General Session	Fruit Physiology & Abiotic Stress — KY Strawberry Association Meeting	Fruit Pest & Disease Management — KSHS Business Meeting	Production Systems of Fruit Crops
Salon E	Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop		Vegetable Production (Experienced)	KVGA Business Meeting — Vegetable Production (Beginner)	Urban & Small- Scale Farming
Salon F			Beginning Farmers	Specialty Cut Flower Short Course	Specialty Cut Flower Short Course
Salon G & H		KSHS Board (G) KVGA Board (H)	Greenhouse Production	High Tunnel Production	Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Reports
Lane's End, Dixiana, Darby Dan, and Calumet Rooms	Tradeshow Set-up	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow & Coffee Break	Tradeshow

#### All Times are Eastern Standard Time Sunday, January 5 — Pre-Conference Sessions

3:00-9:00 p.m	n. Registration		Front Foyer
3:00-9:00 p.m	. Exhibitor Set-up		Foyer, Salons A&B, Lane's End, Dixiana, Darby Dan, and Calumet
4:00-6:00 p.m	n. Bringing the Farm To School G	rower Training	Salon C
4:00-6:00 p.m	n. Farmers Market Short Course	Farmers Market Short Course	
4:00-6:00 p.m	n. Farm Food Safety Plan Writing	Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop	
6:008:00 p.m	n. Grower-Buyer Meetings	Grower-Buyer Meetings	
6:30-7:30 p.m	. Vegetable Growers Meet & Gre	Vegetable Growers Meet & Greet	
7:30-8:30 p.m	. Fruit Year in Review / Meet & G	Greet	Salon F
Monday, Ja	anuary 6 — Conference Sessions	Tuesday, Ja	nuary 7 — Conference Sessions
8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open	8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:45 a.m.	General Session,	8:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
	Salons C-F		Organic Production, Salon C
10:30 a.m.	Break		Fruit Pest & Disease Management, Salon D
12:00 p.m.	Luncheon		Beginning Vegetable Production,
	Salons A & B, C-F		Salon E
			Specialty Cut Flower Short Course,
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions		Salon F High Tuppel Broduction
	Direct Marketing,		High Tunnel Production, Salons G & H
	Salon C		Saloris G & T
	Fruit Physiology & Abiotic Stress, Salon D	10:00 a.m.	Break
	Vegetable Production for	11:45 a.m.	Luncheon
	Experienced Growers,		Salons A & B, C-F
	Salon E	1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
	Beginning Farmers,	1.00 p.m.	Marketing & Business Management,
	Salon F Greenhouse Production,		Salon C
	Salons G & H		Production Systems of Fruit Crops, Salon D
2:30 p.m.	Break		Urban & Small-Scale Farming,
- 00			Salon E
5:00 p.m. 5:20 p.m.	Exhibits Close Kentucky Strawberry Association		Specialty Cut Flower Short Course, Salon F
5.20 p.m.	Meeting, Salon D		Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Reports, Salons G & H
6:00 p.m.	Urban & Small Farms Meet & Greet: Building a Supportive Agricultural	3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Closes
	Community, Hotel Bar Area	3:45 p.m.	A Deep Dive into Urban & Small-
			Scale Farming: Solutions-Based Roundtable
		_ 4:00 p.m.	Post-Conference Orchard Tour

## **BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

#### KY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President: Kevan Evans, Georgetown Vice-President: David Haney, Nancy Secretary: Joanna Hinton, Hodgenville Treasurer: Amanda Gajdzik, Shelbyville Directors:

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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)

#### KY VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President: Shubin Saha, Stanford Vice-President: Nathan Howell, Scottsville Secretary: Rhonda Cornett, London Treasurer: Ben Wilson, Richmond Directors:

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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:	Andrew Oles, Berea College, Madison County
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# 2025 Farmer







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## **PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

All Times Are Eastern Standard Time

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

Kate Hamilton and Sharon Spencer Presiding, Salon C

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 2025 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 with the University of Kentucky to learn about the farmers' market price reports from 2024 for rural vs. non-rural markets. Also, the UK team will be partnering up with CFA to discuss events, promotions and challenges facing markets. 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, Salon D

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 E

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.

6:00-8:00 p.m.

- 6:30-7:30 p.m. VEGETABLE GROWERS YEAR IN REVIEW / MEET & GREET Rachel Rudolph, Presiding, Salon F
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. FRUIT GROWERS YEAR IN REVIEW / MEET & GREET Brent Arnoldussen, Presiding, Salon F
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. **Exhibitor Set-up** Foyer Area, Salons A&B, and Lane's End, Dixiana, Darby Dan, and Calumet Rooms

## **GENERAL SESSION**

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 6**

#### All Times are Eastern Standard Time

#### (1) General Session

Salons C, D, E, F

Kevan Evans, Presiding

- 9:00 a.m. 2025 Fruit & Vegetable Conference Welcome Shubin Saha
- 9:10 a.m. Kentucky Horticulture Council Update Trevor Terry
- 9:25 a.m. University of Kentucky Horticulture Department Update Mark Williams
- 9:35 a.m. Kentucky State University Update Marcus Bernard
- 9:45 a.m. Kentucky Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Update Jonathan Shell
- 10:00 a.m. Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmland Transition Program Renee Carrico
- 10:20 a.m. Building Bridges to Farmer Mental Health Paul Norrod
- 10:40 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 11:00 a.m. Weather Alert: NEW smartphone app from the UK Ag Weather Center Matt Dixon
- 11:30 a.m. Produce Safety Grower Updates Doris Hamilton and Paul Priyesh
- 12:00 p.m. EXHIBITOR/GROWER LUNCHEON Salons A-F
- 12:00 p.m. KSHS and KVGA BOARD MEETINGS KSHS and KVGA board members should pick up their lunch at the buffet in Salons A&B and then meet in the designated room. Kentucky State Horticultural Society – Salon G

Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association – Salon H

# MONDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 6

4 CONCURRENT SESSIONS — All times are Eastern Standard Time

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

(2) DIRECT MARKETING Salon C

Sharon Spencer, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Deepening Customer Relationships Through Email Marketing – Brett Wolff and Emily Spencer
- 2:00 p.m. Succession Planning Is it time to have "the talk"? Kellie Padgett and Spencer Guinn
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Mapping the Customer's Journey: Marketing Strategies to Find & Keep Customers – Emily Spencer
- 3:40 p.m. Using Business Entities for Agriculture Rusty Rumley
- 4:10 p.m. Landowner Liability and Agritourism Statues in Kentucky – Rusty Rumley
- 4:40 p.m. Food Processing: From Home Based to Commercial— Sally Dabb and Annhall Norris

#### (3) FRUIT PHYSIOLOGY AND ABIOTIC STRESS Salon D Sarah Imbus, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Developing Small-Scale Container Production of Native Fruiting Shrubs—Marcus Wilkerson
- 2:00 p.m. Branching Out: Overcoming Blind Wood and Increasing Lateral Bearing Surface in Apple Orchards — Annie Vogel
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Understanding and Managing Bitter-pit and other Calcium-related Disorders in Apple John Strang
- 3:40 p.m. Impacts of Weather and Climate Trends on Fruit Production in Kentucky — Matt Dixon
- 4:10 p.m. Malusim: A Free Application for Precision Management of Apple — Brent Arnoldussen
- 4:40 p.m. Fruit Physiology and Abiotic Stress Grower Panel

#### (4) VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FOR EXPERIENCED GROWERS Salon E

Robert Brockman, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. *Maximizing Production Among the Rows* Annette Wszelaki
- 2:00 p.m. Getting the Most out of Your Winter Squash Crops: Which Types Yield and Store Best – Annette Wszelaki
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Pest Outlook for 2025 Ric Bessin
- 3:40 p.m. Southern Blight: The Hot Weather Foe Nicole Gauthier
- 4:10 p.m. *Biofumigation in Kentucky: Is It Feasible?* -Rachel Rudolph

#### (5) BEGINNING FARMER BASICS Salon F Delia Scott, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Essential Cover Crops for Beginning Farmers – Steve Diver
- 2:00 p.m. Producer Perspective Melissa Wyatt
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 3:10 p.m. What Can the UK CCD Do for You? Alexis Sheffield
- 3:40 p.m. Equipment Basics for Beginning Farmers Steve Higgins
- 4:10 p.m. Finding Your Market and Growing Your Sales: Marketing Strategies for Beginning Farmers – Kati Bowman
- 4:40 p.m. Resources for Beginning Farmers Angella Watson

# MONDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, JANUARY 6

All Times are Eastern Standard Time

#### (6) GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

Salons G & H Arundathi Sharma, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Managing Greenhouse Diseases: Factors that Influence Fungicide Efficacy — Nicole Gauthier
- 2:00 p.m. Insuring Greenhouse Equipment Casey Byrd
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Improving Lighting in Controlled Environments — Qinglu Ying
- 3:40 p.m. Morehead State University Student Research Projects: *Developing a zeoponic lettuce production system in a controlled environment* — Hudson Cox and Ricky Young // *Establishing Blueberries in High-pH Soils: Concerns and Outcomes* — Kirsten Brown and Emma Miller
- 4:10 p.m. Climate Management for Greenhouse Production — Andrew Brooks
- 4:40 p.m. On-farm Water Management in a Large-Scale Strawberry Greenhouse — Bosch Berries

#### 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Close

5:20 p.m. KY Strawberry Association Meeting

#### 6:00-9:00 p.m. Urban and Small-Scale Grower Meet and Greet:

#### **Building a Supportive Agricultural Community**

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? Join us for a Meet & Greet in the terrace bar area, open to all urban & small-scale growers and technical service providers.

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7 — All times are Eastern Standard Time

8:00 a.m. Exhibits Open & Registration Opens

#### **5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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

#### (7) ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Salon C Sarah Guerkink, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Dialing in Fertility on High Tunnel Tomatoes for Quality and Yield – Adam Barr and Rachel Rudolph
- 9:00 a.m. Compost Use in Organic Vegetable Systems Krista Jacobsen
- 9:30 a.m. Organic Weed Management Between Annual Vegetable Crop Beds – Kristi Durbin and Erin Haramoto
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Organic Lettuce Production Across All Seasons From Seed to Storage – Bryce Baumann, Joseph Monroe, and Anna Raines
- 11:10 a.m. Continued

#### (8) FRUIT PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT Salon D Jamie Dockery, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Neopestalotiopsis in Strawberry: New Disease With New Challenges — Nicole Gauthier
- 9:00 a.m. Automated Pest Monitoring Systems for Orchards — Ric Bessin
- 9:30 a.m. Persistence of Woody Plant Diseases: Cankers Diebacks, and Blights — Nicole Gauthier
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Effects and Interactions of Annual Applications of Prohexadione Calcium and Actigard on Orchard Establishment, Yield, and Disease Management — Annie Vogel
- 11:10 a.m. Pest and Disease Grower Panel

#### (9) BEGINNING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

	Salon E Kimberly Leonberger, Presiding
8:00 a.m.	KVGA Annual Business Meeting
8:30 a.m.	Effects of Organic vs. Inorganic Fertilizers on Soil Health and Tomato Yield – Myrrisa

- Soil Health and Tomato Yield Myrrisa Belcher 8:45 a.m. Impact of Compost on Soil and Plant Tissue
- Nutrition Eva Bogue, Anna Griggs, and Jonathan Barnes

9:00 a.m. Movin' on Up! Grower Perspectives on Scaling Up Your Farming Operation – Jonathan and Morgan Berkshire, Brent and Rhonda Cornett, Susan and George Miller

- 9:30 a.m. Grower Perspectives, continued
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 10:40 a.m. *Tomato Blight What Is It Anyway?* Nicole Gauthier
- 11:10 a.m. Herbicide Use 101 Shawn Wright

Cider during conference breaks courtesy of:



TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7 — All times are Eastern Standard Time 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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

#### (10) CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE

Salon F Nikki Rhein, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Knowing Your Production Costs Kelly Stanley
- 9:00 a.m. Growing for Your Market: Color and Texture — Alexis Sheffield
- 9:30 a.m. *IPM in the Cold: What Could Be Bugging You in the Winter?* Jonathan Larson
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 10:40 a.m. *Tulip Trauma and How to Avoid It* Natalie Thodoropoulos
- 11:10 a.m. Introduction to Weed Management for Cut Flower Producers — Shawn Wright

#### (11) HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION

Salons G & H Kathryn Pettigrew, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Crops Under Cover: Tips and Tricks for Using Row Cover – Elaine Losekamp and Katie Fiske
- 9:00 a.m. High Tunnel Maintenance: Start Now or Forever Hold Your Peace! - Kayla Preston
- 9:30 a.m. Soil Solarization for Managing Weeds, Pests, and Diseases – Luize Lessmann and April Lamb
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits Trade Show Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Grower Perspectives: Crop Rotation in High Tunnels – Adam Barr, Dennis Family, and Maggie Dungan
- 11:10 a.m. Grower Perspectives Continued

Short Course continued after lunch.

11:45 a.m. TUESDAY LUNCHEON - Salons A-F

Local sourcing of ingredients for lunches has been possible through Kentucky Proud Conference sponsorship



#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 7 — All times are Eastern Standard Time 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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

#### (12) MARKETING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Salon C Savannah Columbia, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Farming the Digital Landscape: Building Your Brand Through Story – Emily Spencer
- 2:00 p.m. Building Resilient Partnerships with Retailers and Distributors – Brandi Button-Johnson and Faye Kuosman
- 2:30 p.m. *Planning an On-Farm Event* Ally Vallandingham
- 3:00 p.m. Creating Your Business Roadmap: Key Steps for Developing a Comprehensive Business Plan – Kati Bowman

#### (13) PRODUCTION SYSTEMS OF FRUIT CROPS Salon D Delia Scott, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Adapting Raised-bed Blueberry Systems to Kentucky — John Strang
- 2:00 p.m. Blackberry Production Systems Daniel Becker
- 2:30 p.m. Update on Peach and Pear Systems Trials Brent Arnoldussen
- 3:00 p.m. Production Systems Grower Panel
- 3:30 p.m. KSHS Annual Business Meeting

#### Bonus Outdoor Training Sessions (North Farm)

- 4:00 p.m. Intensive Training Systems for Peach Production
- 4:20 p.m. Tall Spindle Apple System for High Density Apples

#### (14) URBAN AND SMALL-SCALE FARMING Salon E

Michael Zachary, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. *Cultivating Tomorrow: Harnessing Aquaponics for a Sustainable Future* – Trevor Claiborn
- 2:00 p.m. *Cultivating Tomorrow: FoodChain Student Research Projects* - Rianna Acton, Soren Burns, John Conley, Caris Francis, Sophia Lewis, Damien Powell, Javan White
- 2:30 p.m. Maximizing Your Small-Scale Farm: Secrets to Successful Thriving – Andre Barbour
- 3:00 p.m. Farmers in Focus: An interview with Ryan Hodge and Rita Sims – Ryan Hodge and Rita Sims

#### Bonus Grower Roundtable Discussion

3:45 p.m. A Deep Dive into Urban & Small-Scale Farming: Solutions-Based Roundtable – Tonya Smith

#### (16) CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE Salon F Kristin Hildabrand, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Grower Round Table Let's Talk About Flowers – Cindy Finneseth
- 2:00 p.m. FSA-Noninsured Crop Disaster Program -Floriculture – Maeci Moore
- 2:30 p.m. Lessons in Building a Floral CSA & Subscription Program – Mary Chauvin
- 3:10 p.m. *Elevating Your Seed Starting* Tara Watkins Vaughn

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 7 — All times are Eastern Standard Time

**5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS** 

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

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

Salons G & H Brett McQueary, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. New Digital Tools and Marketing Strategies for a Post-COVID-19 Marketplace — Brett Wolff
- 1:45 p.m. Evaluating the Inter-season Rotation of Tomato with Fresh-cut Flowers in a High Tunnel System for Improved Pest, Disease, and Soil Management — Rachel Rudolph
- 2:00 p.m. Increasing Consumer Demand for Kentucky Specialty Crops and Inspiring Beginning Farmers through Extension-Supported Gardening Programs — Nicole Breazeale
- 2:15 p.m. Kentucky Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: Tips and Keys for Success —

#### Bonus outdoor event: training systems and pruning demo at the new UK modern training systems orchard at the UK North Farm off Newtown Pike

(Note: transportation not provided and dress for the weather)

#### 4:00 pm Intensive Training Systems for Peach Production

Learn about the new high-density training systems for peach, including v trellis systems, planar systems, and free-standing systems including pruning demos on the pruning principles.

#### 4:20 pm Tall Spindle Apple System for High Density Apples

Hands on pruning demo looking at the different pruning approaches and principles for tall spindle apples.

#### Bonus Grower Roundtable Roundtable Topics:

**Bridging the Gap: How Small Farmers Can Gain Visibility in a Big Ag World** - exploring strategies for small and urban farmers to get noticed by government agencies, larger markets, and consumers, ensuring their voices are heard in spaces often dominated by big agriculture.

**Navigating Agency Interactions: Building Strong Relationships with USDA, NRCS, and FSA** - a practical discussion on how to effectively engage with government agencies, understand their processes, and ensure you're accessing the right resources. This includes tips on making your case and advocating for yourself as a small-scale farmer.

**Protecting Your Farm: Avoiding Scams and Exploitation by For-Profit Agencies -** recognizing warning signs of fraudulent offers and services targeted at small farmers, providing tips on how to verify the legitimacy of funding opportunities, resources, or partnerships. Also, exploring ethical alternatives to for-profit agencies.

**Leveraging Resources: How Small Farmers Can Access Support Beyond Big Agriculture -** non-traditional funding and support networks for small-scale and urban farmers, including community grants, cooperative funding, and alternative financial tools to help farmers access capital without relying on big agriculture.

Advocacy in Action: Raising Awareness and Fighting for Representation as a Small-Scale Farmer - focusing on how small farmers can organize and advocate for policy changes, gain representation in agricultural boards, and participate in local and state-level discussions to ensure their unique needs are met.

## **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Rianna Acton, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

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

Andre Barbour, Grower, Barbour's Farm, Canmer, KY

Dr. Marcus Bernard, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources and Director of Land Grant Programs, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

Jonathan Barnes, Student, Murray State University, Murray, KY

Adam Barr, Grower, Barr Farms, Rhodelia, KY

Courtney Bartlett, Extension Associate, Cultivate Kentucky, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Bryce Baumann, Grower, Lazy Eight Stock Farm, Paint Lick, KY

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

Myrrisa Belcher, Student, Western KY University, Bowling Green, KY

Jonathan and Morgan Berkshire, Growers, Berkshire Farms, Glencoe, KY

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

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

Kati Bowman, Marketing and Business Development Specialist, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Elizabethtown, KY

Bryan Brady, Extension Associate Sr, Cultivate Kentucky, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Dr. Nicole Breazeale, Assoc. Professor, Community Leadership Development, University of KY, Lexington, KY Robert Brockman, Boone County Extension Agent for Horticulture, Burlington, KY

Andrew Brooks, Business Development Manager: Southeastern US, Priva

Kirsten Brown, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Soren Burns, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

Brandi Button-Johnson, Western KY Value Chain Coordinator, The Food Connection, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

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

Renee Carrico, Director, Commodity Division, KY Farm Bureau, Louisville, KY

Mary Chauvin, Grower, Calamity Blooms, Oldham County, KY

Trevor Claiborn, Aquaponics Educator, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

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

John Conley, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

Brent and Rhonda Cornett, Growers, Cornett Enterprises, London, KY

Hudson Cox, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Sally Dabb, Food Manufacturing Supervisor, KY Department for Public Health, Frankfort, KY

Donald and Lesley Dennis, Solway Farm, Eastview, KY

Steve Diver, Farm Superintendent, University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm, Lexington, KY

Matt Dixon, Senior Meteorologist, UK Ag Weather Center, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Jamie Dockery, Fayette Co Extension Agent for Horticulture, Lexington, KY Maggie Dungan, Grower, Salad Days Farm, Versailles, KY

Kristi Durbin, Farm Manager, University of KY Horticulture Research Farm – Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Unit, Lexington, KY

Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Executive Director, KY Black Farmers Association, Madison County, KY

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

Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Extension Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Dr. Katie Fiske, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Caris Francis, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

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

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

Sarah Guerkink, Organic Production Specialist, Organic Association of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

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

Doris Hamilton, Plant Division Director, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

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

Dr. Erin Haramoto, Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of KY, Lexington, KY

## **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Dr. Steve Higgins, Assistant Adjunct Professor, Director of Environmental Compliance, Dept. of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

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

Ryan Hodge, Grower, Hodge Family Farm, Hodgenville, KY

Sarah Imbus, Horticulture Agent, Campbell Co Cooperative Extension Service, Highland Heights, KY

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

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

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

Dr. April Lamb, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, University of KY, Lexington, KY

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

Kimberly Leonberger, Extension Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Luize Lessmann, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Sophia Lewis, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

Elaine Losekamp, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Entomology, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Ryan Mairs, Produce Safety, KY Dept. of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Brett McQueary, Program Coordinator Specialty Crop Block Grants, Office of Agriculture Marketing, KY Dept. of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY Emma Miller, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Susan and George Miller, Growers, Miller Farms, Stanford, KY

Joseph Monroe, Grower, Valley Spirit Farm, Campbellsburg, KY

Maeci Moore, USDA-FSA NAP Specialist, USDA Farm Service Agency, Lexington, KY

Annhall Norris, Food Preservation Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Dr. Paul Norrod, Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH

Kellie Padgett, Senior Business Development Specialist, Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development, Elizabethtown, KY

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

Damien Powell, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

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

Dr. Paul Priyesh, Food Science/Safety Specialist, Animal and Food Sciences Food Science Innovation Center, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Anna Raines, Grower, Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm, Independence, KY

Nikki Rhein, Marshall County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Benton, KY

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

Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney, National Ag Law Center, Fayetteville, AR

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 KY, Lexington, KY

Alexis Sheffield, Extension Specialist, Center for Crop Diversification, Dept. of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Jonathan Shell, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

Rita Sims, Grower and Community Director, Kentucky Ag Development Advocacy, Hopkinsville, KY

Tonya Smith, Generational Farmer and Founder, Kentucky Ag Development Advocacy, Park City, KY

Emily Spencer, Extension Associate, Department of Ag Economics, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Sharon Spencer, Division Director, Direct Farm Marketing, Kentucky Department of Ag, Frankfort, KY

Kelly Stanley, Grower, Gray Arbor Farm, Georgetown, KY

Dr. John Strang, Emeritus Extension Fruit and Vegetable Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Trevor Terry, Executive Director, KY Horticulture Council, Lexington, KY

Natalie Thodoropoulos, Grower, Tulip Lane Flower Farm, Paducah, KY

Ally Vallandingham, Grower, Stepping Stone Farm, Paris, KY

Tara Watkins Vaughn, Nursery Crops Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Annie Vogel, Tree Fruit Extension Specialist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

### **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Angella Watson, Program Specialist, Beginning Farmer Coordinator, FOIA/Privacy Act Coordinator; Climate-Smart Grant POC, USDA Farm Service Agency, Lexington, KY

Javan White, Student, FoodChain, Lexington, KY

Laurie White, Central Kentucky Local Food Coordinator, Community Farm Alliance, Berea, KY

Marcus Wilkerson, Student, KY State University, Frankfort, KY Dr. Mark Williams, Chair, Dept of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Brett Wolff, Extension Associate, Department of Ag Economics, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Dr. Shawn Wright, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, Jackson, KY

Dr. Annette Wszelaki, Professor and Vegetable Extension Specialist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN Melissa Wyatt, Owner/Operator, Wyatt's Chapel Farm, London, KY

Dr. Qinglu Ying, Controlled Environment Production Extension Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of KY, Lexington, KY

Ricky Young, Student, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Michael Zachary, State Outreach Coordinator, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lexington, KY

## TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

Aero Ag, LLC 324 S Lincoln Blvd. Hodgenville, KY 42748 270-401-6877 calebcanter22@gmail.com www.aeroag.us/

Agrauxine by Lesaffre 316 Key West Dr Evansville, IN 47712 US 414-340-1648 j.klostermann@agrauxine.lesaffre.com https://agrauxine.com/us/

Bluegrass Ag Workers Services 1890 Starshoot Pkwy Ste 170-110 Lexington, KY 40509 859-279-2057 buffy@bluegrassagworkers.com www.bluegrassagworkers.com/

Bluegrass Blueberries 11067 Porter Pike Rd. Oakland, KY 42159 270-432-5836 blueberrynurseryky@gmail.com www.bluegrassblueberries.com

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Clifton Seed Company P.O. Box 206 Faison, NC 28341 910-267-2690 brandim@cliftonseed.com www.cliftonseed.com

Community Farm Alliance 327 Chestnut St. Suite 1 Berea, **KY** 40403 859-756-6378 info@cfaky.org https://cfaky.org/

Continental Industries P.O. Box 865 Shepherdsville, KY 40165 502-543-2600 jchamilton@windstream.net

Cushman Creek Supply 1205 C.R. 24 Marengo, OH 43334

Deerfield Supplies 8208 W. Jefferson DavisHWY Elkton, KY 42220 Fairview Produce Auction 10292 US Hwy 68E Pembroke, KY 42266 270-887-0053

Ferris Farm 83 Ferris Rd New Wilmington, PA 16142 724-971-0888 www.ferrisfarm.net/

Farm Credit Mid-America 12501 Lakefront Place Louisville, KY 40299 https://www.fcma.com/home

Feeding Kentucky 106 Progress Dr Frankfort, KY 40601 502-699-2656 sarah@feedingky.org https://feedingky.org/

Fresh Start Growers' Supply 1007 E. Jefferson St Louisville, KY 40206 502-442-7883 steveparadis@gmail.com www.freshstartgrowers.com/

Glacier Valley Enterprises 600 South Blvd. Baraboo, WI 53913 608-356-2244 www.glacierv.com

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Grow Appalachia 210 Center St. Berea, KY 40403 info@growappalachia.org https://growappalachia.berea.edu/

Hart County Produce Auction 6880 Cub Run Hwy Munfordville, KY 42765 270-925-9437

Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development Old Capitol Annex 300 West Broadway Frankfort, KY 40601 502-564-7670 800-626-2930 www.ced.ky.gov

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Kentucky Proud Kentucky Department of Agriculture Office of Marketing 111 Corporate Drive Frankfort, KY 40601 502-782-4115 www.kyagr.com/marketing

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Produce Safety 107 Corporate Drive Frankfort, KY 40601 502-782-4115 www.kyagr.com/marketing/producesafety.html

Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Farm Market Program P.O. Box 20700 Louisville, KY 40250 502-495-5000 fran.mccall@kyfb.com www.kyfb.com/federation/programs/ certified-farm-markets/ Kentucky Fertilizer 303 Hill St Winchester, KY 40391 859-744-3759 mpickett@kyfertilizer.com/ https://kyfertilizer.com/

Kentucky Department for Public Health—Cabinet for Health and Family Services 275 E. Main St. Frankfort, KY 40621 502-564-3970 https://www.chfs.ky.gov

Kentucky Horticulture Council PO Box 21736 Lexington, KY 40522 859-490-0889 info@kyhortcouncil.org www.kyhortcouncil.org

Kentucky Office of Adult Education, Reentry and Employment Services Branch 2355 Nashville Rd Bowling Green, KY 42101 https://kyae.ky.gov/find-your-services/ Pages/Second-Chance.aspx

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Lincoln County Produce Auction 2896 KY Hwy 39N Crab Orchard, KY 40419 606-355-0030

Martin's Produce Supplies 2518 S Fork Creek Rd Liberty, KY 42539 606-787-9389

Midwest Vineyard Supply 2300 South Twin Bridge Road Decatur, IL 62521 217-864-9896 sales@midwestvineyardsupply.com

National Center for Appropriate Technology 3040 Continental Drive PO Box 3838 Butte, MT 59702 800-275-6228 tammyb@ncat.org www.attra.ncat.org

Nutrien Ag Solutions 7855 W 650 S Rossville, IN 46065 765-714-8387 stuart.brenneman@nutrien.com

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Raising Hope www.raisinghopeky.com

Rockford Package Supply 1080 Vitality Dr. NW Comstock Park, MI 49321 800-444-7225 marys@rockfordpack.com https://rockfordpack.com

Rovensa Next info@rovensanext.com https://www.rovensanext.com/en/

Rupp Seeds 17919 Co Rd B Wauseon, OH 43567 419-337-7093 ryani@ruppseeds.com www.ruppseeds.com

Schrock Sales 2598 HWY 39N Crab Orchard, KY 40419

Seedway, LLC PO Box 250 Hall, NY 14463 585-526-6394 865-548-7333 khosey@seedway.com mrobson@seedway.com www.seedway.com

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Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention 1398 Nicholasville Rd Lexington, KY 40546 859-533-3782 ashley.rockwell@uky.edu https://www.uky.edu/scahip/ Southern Container Corp of Wilson, Inc PO Box 216 Wilson, NC 27894 252-230-1376 cthompson@socontainers.com https://socontainers.com/

Sun Sugar Farms 1258 Maddox Lane Verona, KY 41092 888-883-7259 859-630-2694 linda@sunsugarfarms.com/ https://sunsugarfarms.com/

Timac Agro USA 153 Angstadt Lane PO BOX 888 Reading, PA 19607 800-545-5474 contact@timacusa.com john.hopson@timacusa.com https://us.timacagro.com/

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Food Connection University of Kentucky 440 Hilltop Avenue Lexington, KY 40506 859-218-4987 foodconnection@uky.edu www.foodconnection.ca.uky.edu

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United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Outreach and Communications 771 Corporate Drive Lexington, KY 40503 phone: 859-224-7624 jeremy.stevenson@usda.gov United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) 771 Corporate Dr. Ste 300 Lexington, KY 40503 859-224-7314 michael.zachary@usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS) Eastern Mountain Region 601 W. Broadway St Ste 645 Louisville, KY 40202 502-907-3210 david.knopf@usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA RMA) 803 Liberty Road Jackson, MS 39232 601-965-4771 Cody.Adkins@rma.usda.gov www.rma.usda.gov

VanMeter Family Farm 164 Old Peonia Loop Clarkson, KY 42726 270-963-2320 vanmeterfamilyfarm@gmail.com

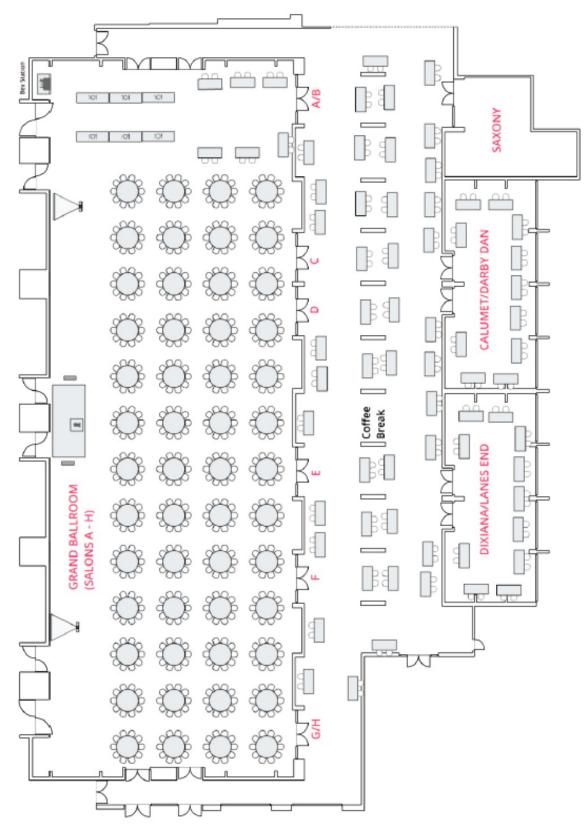
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#### **Literature Exhibitors:**

Nourse Farms 41 River Rd South Deerfield, MA 01093 877-632-3779 info@noursefarms.com https://www.noursefarms.com/

Seven Springs Farm Supply 426 Jerry Ln NE Check, VA 24072 540-651-3228 800-540-9181 7springs@swva.net

### HOTEL MAP



Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association Kentucky State Horticulture Society PO Box 21736 Lexington, KY 40522-1736

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