

OAK CONFERENCE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



MARISSA ARNOLDUSSEN

OAK

Marissa Arnoldussen joined OAK in early 2024 as a Soil Health and Conservation Specialist. She has a background in environmental

and soil sciences and extensive experience working as an agronomist in the Pacific Northwest and the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Marissa provides technical support in developing and implementing climate-smart management plans for farms enrolled in OAK's Soil Health and Climate-Smart Farming Project.

oak-ky.org/climate-smart-project



ADAM BARR

Barr Farms

Adam Barr's family has stewarded their farmland on the border of Meade and Breckinridge Counties for seven generations. Today, Adam, Rae

and their family continue this journey, raising organic produce, 100% grass-fed beef and pastured chicken on the 260-acre farm. Since 2007, Barr Farms has offered CSA shares to their community, broadening their production and customer offerings to include the Kentucky Farm Share Coalition, local farmers markets, New Roots Fresh Stop Markets and local restaurants.

[@barrfarmsky](https://www.instagram.com/barrfarmsky)



GREG BRANN

Greg Brann Consulting / Big Spring Farm

Greg Brann Consulting is renowned for Greg's extensive knowledge of soil health, grass and livestock management

systems and plant identification. His deep understanding of plant communities as indicators of land productivity has made him a steadfast resource for land owners and managers who care about understanding nature's ability to regenerate land. With over 40 years of experience in land and pasture management, Greg has had the privilege of witnessing his plans transform over 20,000 acres of land.

gregbrann.com



BRETT CHEDZOY

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County

Brett Chedzoy is a Regional Extension Forester with Cornell University and the Forest Manager for Cornell's Arnot

Teaching and Research Forest, where his interest in regional silvopasturing grew out of their "Goats in the Woods" project in the early 2000s. Brett and his family own and operate large grazing operations in Central Argentina and Upstate New York (Angus Glen Farms LLC) that extensively utilize silvopasture practices and natural farm woodlands.



JOEL DUFOUR

Earth Tools

Joel was raised in Southern Indiana, around his family's small-engine business and organic vegetable farm. He has been using, repairing and

selling walk-behind tractors for over 40 years. Joel's business, Earth Tools Inc., in Owenton, KY, is the largest retail supplier of walk-behind tractors in North America and provides free repair and maintenance consultation. Joel lives with his wife and two daughters on a farm north of Frankfort.

earthtools.com



MAGGIE DUNGAN

Salad Days Farm

Maggie owns and operates Salad Days Farm, a certified organic diversified vegetable farm in Woodford County. The first seeds were planted in 2015

and since then the operation has grown from half an acre to three acres using intensive sustainable market gardening practices. With year-round sales through farmers markets and restaurants, an on-farm store and wholesale accounts, it has been Maggie's goal to exemplify the sustainability of local organic food from small farms.

[@saladdaysfarmky](https://www.instagram.com/saladdaysfarmky)

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JESSE FROST

Rough Draft Farmstead

Farmer Jesse Frost is the author of *The Living Soil Handbook*. With his wife, Hannah Crabtree, Jesse raises 3/4 acres of certified organic no-till vegetables for his local

community in Central Kentucky. Jesse started *The No-Till Market Garden Podcast* and co-founded Notillgrowers.com in 2018.

[@roughdraftfarmstead](https://www.instagram.com/roughdraftfarmstead)



SARAH GEURKINK

OAK

Sarah Geurkink is OAK's Organic Production Specialist. She has 13 years of experience managing organic, diversified farms—most recently at

Michigan State University's Student Organic Farm, where she trained students and beginning farmers in organic production. Before moving to Kentucky, she and her husband owned a small farm in Michigan where they raised sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys and bees. Sarah especially enjoys learning from farmers, sharing ideas and solving production challenges.

oak-ky.org/production-consultation



DANIEL MAYS

Frith Farm

Daniel Mays runs Frith Farm in southern Maine, where he has grown vegetables using no-till methods since 2010. He is the author of the book,

The No-Till Organic Vegetable Farm, and loves to share and exchange experiences with other growers. Daniel has a Master of Science in environmental engineering, and his approach to farming is holistic, asking the deep questions of how the ways we farm shape who we are and how we live.

[@frithfarm](https://www.instagram.com/frithfarm) frithfarm.net



ELLEN POLISHUK

Plant to Profit

Ellen Polishuk is a farm consultant and workshop leader. She leverages her 35 years of biological vegetable farming experience to help

growers around the country achieve more satisfaction and better profitability from their farm businesses. Her client work touches on all aspects of production, quality of life and farm finances and bookkeeping. Her superpowers are puzzle-solving, listening and asking powerful questions. Ellen is also a co-author of the book, *Start Your Farm*.

planttoprofit.com



JEFF POPPEN

Barefoot Farmer / Long Hungry Creek Farm

Jeff Poppen's lectures stem from his livelihood: 40 years with cattle, hay and a five-acre market garden/community

supported agriculture (CSA) using biodynamic and old-time farming principles. Jeff learned from farming elders and now it's his turn. Experiences with the humid conditions, erratic weather and worn-out soils of the Southeast taught him the value of soil tilth, biology and rock dust, among other things. Jeff's new book, *Barefoot Biodynamics*, is his third book and he also has a series on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

[@barefootfarmer](https://www.instagram.com/barefootfarmer) barefootfarmer.com



MARGARET SHEA

Dropseed Native Plant Nursery

Margaret Shea is the owner and manager of Dropseed Native Plant Nursery. She has a bachelor's degree in biology

from Xavier University and a master's degree in ecology from Indiana University. Margaret worked for conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy and Bernheim Forest before starting her nursery in 2004. Dropseed Nursery shares property with Field 51 Produce, a farm operated by Margaret's husband, David Keal.

dropseednursery.com



IAN ZEGLIN

Greenacres Foundation

Ian Zeglin is the Associate Director of Garden Operations at the Greenacres Foundation.

Ian has farmed for 13 years, mostly centered around

vegetable production. Greenacres Foundation practices no-till production and animal integration into its mixed vegetable and flower production.

green-acres.org

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