



August 2020

Brett Wolff, Editor
Christy Cassady, Editor/Designer

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Coming up

Aug. 26 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Eastern time, Introductory
Cooperatives 101 webinar.
The Center for Cooperatives
in the College of Food, Agri-
cultural, and Environmental
Sciences at Ohio State and
Co-op Dayton will present
this free webinar for farm-
ers, organizations and peo-
ple in the food industry to
learn about what a coopera-
tive is, and how cooperatives
work. [Click here](#) to register.

Aug. 26-27 - Kentucky
Nursery & Landscape Asso-
ciation Virtual Summer Out-
ing. For details, see **Page 4**.

Aug. 31 - 7-8 p.m. EDT,
Small-Scale Drip Irrigation
Setup and Installation webi-
nar, hosted by Grow Appala-
chia. For details, see **Page 5**.

Sept. 11, 18, 25 - Virtual
Mechanical Weed Control
Field Day, 12:30-1:15 p.m.
CDT. To register, [click here](#).

Whole-farm revenue protection offers another insurance option

By Matt Ernst, independent writer

Crop insurance options for specialty crop growers expanded in 2019 with changes in the whole-farm revenue protection policies available to diversified crop farms, and whole-farm revenue protection could be a fit for some producers looking to manage risks in 2021.

What is Whole-Farm Revenue Protection?

Whole-farm revenue protection is a form of crop insurance. It differs from older crop insurance programs, like those for many row crops, because it is written in a way that can guard against the risk of the “whole farm” dropping below an average level of revenue. The average revenue is based on a five-year Schedule F revenue history, three years for beginning farmers.

As the name implies, whole-farm revenue protection applies beyond crops. This may be a benefit for smaller and mid-sized diversified farms relying on revenue streams from both plants and animals. A main factor in determining when the whole-farm revenue protection “kicks in” is the farm’s gross revenue from all enterprises. This aspect can also be a potential benefit for producers regularly selling products at retail prices or at price premiums, like certified organic crops. (Some organic crops may qualify for more traditional crop insurance options, under USDA programs.)

More specifics about whole-farm revenue protection, as well as other insurance options available for your farm, are available by contacting your local Farm Service Agency office. An overview of whole-farm revenue protection is also online at: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact-Sheets/Whole-Farm-Revenue-Protection-2020>.

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Got water, need samples?

KY Horticulture Council program helps growers with testing logistics, management of water sources

From the Kentucky Horticulture Council

Are you currently using a pond, well, or other non-municipal water source to irrigate your produce crops? Or, now thinking about it after seeing your last water bill?

The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) is conducting an agricultural water testing program to help produce growers better understand the microbial quality of their surface and ground water sources used for production and post-harvest activities.



Photo by Molly Sullivan

KHC student intern Will Caudill, after collecting a water sample.

ysis. We will also help you manage the test results – organizing the data and calculating the statistical thresholds. If there is a high risk associated with the water source, we can talk through options and help you select a management strategy.”

KHC is looking for a few additional sites to sample. Growers who participate in the program receive one-on-one sampling training, sample analysis, and individualized interpretation of test results. Water quality testing is a component of grower compliance with FDA’s FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act). If you would like to participate in the program, which runs until May 2021, please email KHC at info@kyhortcouncil.org.

Continued from Page 1

Farm insurance options may vary according to individual farm situations and the operator’s risk management strategy, as well as the operator’s business goals and philosophies. Although whole-farm revenue protection may not be an appropriate or desired risk management tool for every farm situation, changes made to the program rules in 2019-20 may make whole-farm revenue protection something that diversified farms may wish to take a look at for the 2021 season and beyond.

“Crop insurance, like all insurance, is a function of our personal and public common risk aversions,”

said Jeff Schahczenski, Agricultural and Natural Resource Economist, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT).

His comments came in an article published in April at <https://www.ncat.org/rethinking-crop-insurance/>. “Though available nationwide, this policy has not been widely utilized because of several factors which NCAT and others have been working to improve. Nonetheless, if price or market risks continue to rise over the next few years, (whole-farm revenue protection) may become an option to consider for the many producers of crop or livestock products for which revenue insurance is not available,” concluded Schahczenski.

USDA Coronavirus Program adds nursery crops, cut flowers, extends deadline to Sept. 11th

From the USDA Farm Service Agency

The USDA announced on August 11th that additional commodities are covered by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in response to public comments and data. Additionally, the USDA is extending the deadline to apply for the program to September 11th, and producers with approved applications will receive their final payment. After reviewing over 1,700 responses, even more farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity for assistance to help keep operations afloat during these tough times.

The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

Specialty Crops - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.

Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.

Aquaculture - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.

Nursery Crops and Flowers - nursery crops and cut flowers.

Seven commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. For more information, go to www.farmers.gov/cfap, or call 877-508-8364.



Cucumber survey ends Sept. 1st

From Dr. W. Garrett Owen, University of Kentucky Department of Horticulture

University of Kentucky researchers are seeking input from individuals or businesses producing cucumbers under protected culture. Growers of cucumbers in greenhouses, high tunnels/hoop houses, or indoors, e.g. shipping containers or warehouses, or in-ground farm fields are encouraged to participate. This 12-minute industry survey aims to address production challenges and focus on information related to production and systems, culture, harvest and handling, and marketing of cucumbers. Except for your time, there are no risks or conflicts of interest associated with participation in this study and participation is voluntary. All responses will remain confidential. Your anonymous input for the survey will help identify research and extension priorities in the United States. If you or your business currently grow, or are interested in growing cucumbers under protected culture, and are willing to participate in this short survey, please click on the link below.

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Sdit2owz9Y9jeJ?utm_source=e-GRO+August+5%2C+2020&utm_campaign=Aug+5+Cucumber+Survey&utm_medium=email

The survey will close on Sept. 1st, so please provide your input today!

If you have questions or additional feedback, please contact Dr. W. Garrett Owen at wgowen@uky.edu.

Seasonal vegetable issues

By Rachel Rudolph, Ph.D.

UK Extension Vegetable Specialist

“What is wrong with my tomato fruit?”

Here is an example of a tomato fruit exhibiting vivipary. Vivipary means “live birth” in Latin. Vivipary can occur when fruit become overripe and the hormone controlling seed dormancy, known as abscisic acid, is exhausted. The seeds inside the fruit begin to germinate and the sprouting seeds can even poke through an uncut tomato. Although it is safe to consume a tomato that has vivipary, it may seem unappetizing to some people. Vivipary can be avoided by not letting fruit become overripe. Do not leave tomatoes on the plant too long and consume them within a few days after ripening. Tomatoes can be harvested before they are fully ripe. The flavor will still be good if allowed to ripen off the plant. Storing tomato fruit below 55 degrees Fahrenheit may also lead to vivipary. Peppers, apples, pears, and some citrus can also have vivipary.

For more information on other issues in tomato, see ID-172, [An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Pests of Solanaceous Crops in Kentucky](#), and/

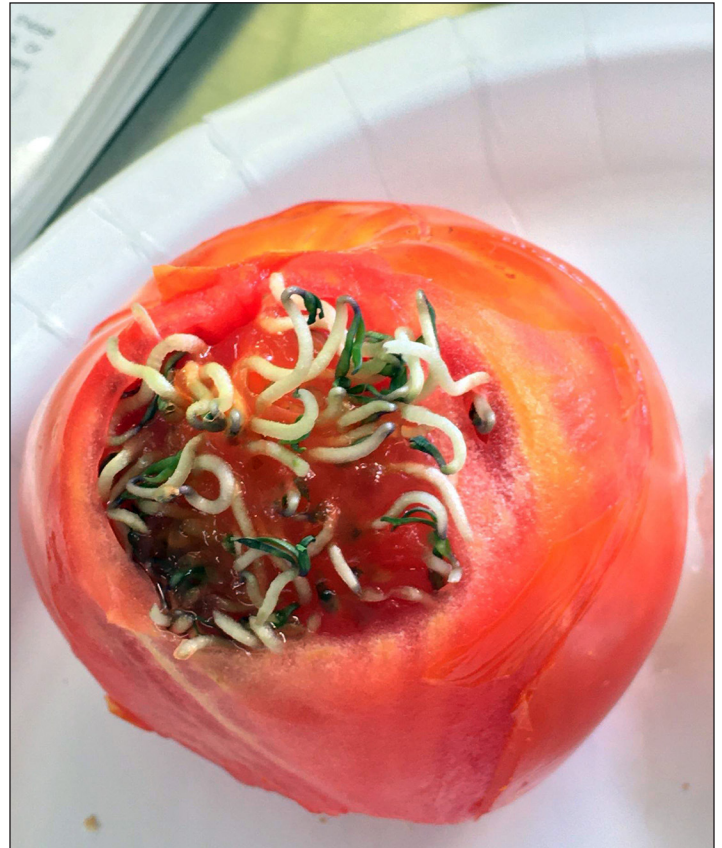


Photo by Ken Childers

To avoid vivipary, do not let fruit become overripe.

or ID-235, [An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of High Tunnel and Greenhouse Vegetable Crops in Kentucky](#).

KY Nursery & Landscape Association goes virtual with Summer Outing

From the KY Nursery & Landscape Association website

The 2020 KNLA VIRTUAL Summer Outing will be held Wednesday, Aug. 26th and Thursday, Aug. 27th.

The event kicks off on Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. EDT with an introduction, followed by three Yew Dell Plant Tour and Plant Problem Diagnosis sessions. Thursday’s program begins at 8 a.m. The virtual format will feature a variety of speakers and demonstrations as well as the tours.

CEU credit will be available for the sessions. KNLA will record attendance based on each individual registration. Individuals attending for CEU credit MUST have their own registration. Group/business registrations will NOT be accepted. The registration fee is \$75 and includes both days of sessions.



To see the complete schedule, presentation descriptions, speaker bios and additional information, go to <https://knla.org/2020-Summer-Outing>. Registration is available at <https://knla.org/event-3927021>. If you have questions, please email KNLA at info@knla.org, or call or text 502.330.8300.

KY Proud farmers markets benefit farmers, consumers, communities

From the Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Summer is in full swing and Kentucky Proud Farmers Markets all across the Commonwealth are as well. It's unequivocally the best time of year to find the freshest ingredients and Farmers Markets are the place to purchase locally grown and raised produce, eggs, meat, and more, direct from the farm to you. But there are so many more reasons to shop at your local Farmers Market than simply a great place to buy fresh farm products.

If you know a farmer, you know the hours are long and the profit margins are often slim. Farmers choose to farm because they care about the land and understand that they serve a vital role in their communities. It can be a thankless profession, but we literally couldn't live without them. Farmers Markets are a direct-to-consumer business model, removing the retail middle-man, thereby increasing profits to the farm. By providing these cost-effective retail sales opportunities for local producers, Farmers Markets help make local farming viable.

Improved viability for local farms also benefits your local community. In fact, according to a 2017 Forbes magazine article, for every \$100 spent at locally owned businesses, \$68 remains in the local community. Supporting local businesses also creates jobs where you live. And shopping at your local Farmers Market means your food travels fewer miles from the farm to your plate. That not only allows you to pick your food at the very peak of freshness but also conserves energy and resources in the form of decreased transportation costs and reduced packaging.

Believe it or not, purchasing the freshest foods from your local Farmers Market can actually be more nutritious for you and your family. We all know that eating your fruits and veggies is part of a healthy diet that can help manage weight and



blood sugar. But what may surprise you is that eating locally grown fresh produce maximizes the amount of available nutrients. Fruits and vegetables often lose nutritional value over time as the water content in produce begins to absorb the valuable nutrients, so there's added health benefits in consuming the freshest picked foods. Not to mention that fresh just tastes better.

Fruits and vegetables are awesome but we all need to splurge a bit on occasion. So, whether your guilty pleasure is a buttered slice of freshly baked bread, a glass of wine, a juicy grilled ribeye, or a big ole' bag of kettle corn, you can find all sorts of delectable foods at your local Farmers Market. The diversity of many markets is nothing to sneeze at, even if some of the locally grown flower bouquets cause you a bit of a sniffle. Check your local Farmers Market website or Facebook page for a full list of vendors and products.

Don't miss out this summer; plan a visit to your local market where you'll find the freshest ingredients and so much more. Fresh food. Fresh thinking. Find both at a Kentucky Proud Farmers Market near you.

For a full list of Kentucky Proud Farmers Markets, go to <http://www.kyproud.com/farmers-markets/>.

Grow Appalachia to host Small-Scale Drip Irrigation Setup and Installation webinar

Grow Appalachia will host a Small-Scale Drip Irrigation Setup and Installation webinar on Monday, August 31st from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern time. The webinar will cover the necessary tools, layout of the system, parts and pieces, and how to put it all

together.

For more information, visit the Grow Appalachia Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GrowAppalachia/>. Register for the event at <https://bit.ly/2CDhhMV>.

OAK 2021 Conference going virtual, moving to January

From the Organic Association of Kentucky website

Now is a time of unprecedented challenges for our communities and incredible opportunities to strengthen local food systems. The need for learning, exploring best practices, sharing challenges and success and connecting with one another is greater than ever.

To ensure our community stays safe and healthy through a global public health pandemic we have made the hard decision to hold OAK's 10th Annual Conference online. While we will miss seeing all of you in person, we know this is our best option to stay connected, continue learning and find inspiration for the season ahead.

The event is a must for farmers, agriculture professionals, home gardeners and those passionate about building more resilient food systems in Kentucky. Conference sessions provide useful tools, techniques, research and knowledge you can put to use on the farm. CEUs will be available!

Conference sessions cover an array of organic production topics, regenerative agriculture, livestock management, marketing, homesteading and food systems change making. Join us and hear from experienced farmers and national speakers covering a range of topics in live sessions, Q & A,

OEFFA seeking workshop proposals for February 2021 online conference

From the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

OEFFA is now accepting workshop proposals for our 42nd annual conference, Our Time: Essential Links in a Strong Food Chain, to be held online in February. We are seeking experienced farmers and other food movement leaders willing to share their expertise on a variety of topics.

The workshops run Thursday, February 11th through Sunday, February 14th, 2021. The conference covers diverse themes related to organic and sustainable agriculture, and we hope to receive a wide range of proposals. The deadline is August 28th.

Knowledgeable speakers are encouraged to



and keynotes, including Leah Penniman and Jean-Martin Fortier. A Virtual Trade Show will also be part of the experience, connecting farmers with the best technology, input suppliers, financial institutions and educational resources.

The OAK Conference will take place over five days: January 26th-30th, 2021. We've moved the conference to the last week in January based on attendee feedback and other regional events. OAK is currently accepting session proposals. Submit your ideas by August 27th at <https://www.oak-ky.org/conference-call-for-sessions>. For additional information about the conference, [click here](#).

Registration and program will be available in September. Contact Brooke Gentile at brooke@oak-ky.org with event inquiries.

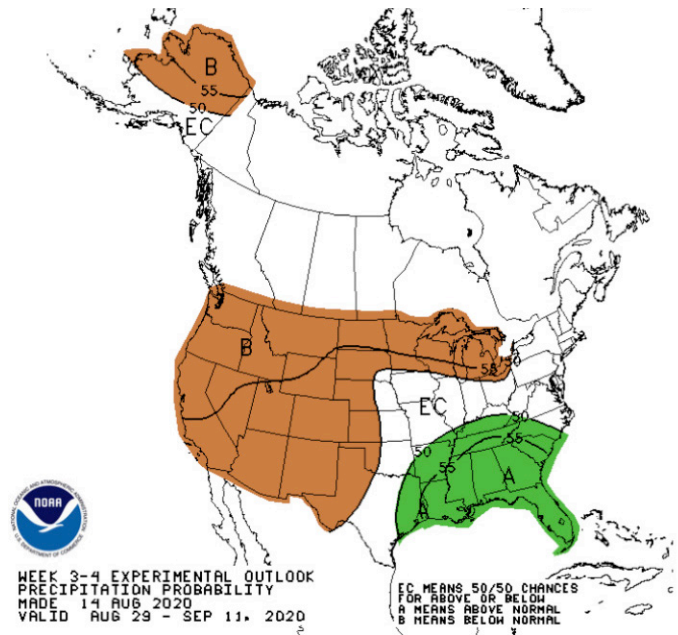


submit a proposal on topics that include climate resilience, soil health, commercial fruit and vegetable production, business management, marketing, biodynamics and permaculture, food justice, and more. Our [speaker application page](#) has detailed information about how to apply and what to expect. Please read through all of the resources provided prior to submitting a proposal. If you have any questions, call Milo Petruziello at (614) 421-2022.

Warmer and wetter than average start expected for September

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an increased chance of warmer than average conditions for the first 10 days of September across all of North America. During the same period, above average precipitation is also predicted for the southeastern U.S., including most of Kentucky. Further into September, there is an equal chance of above and below average temperature and precipitation. The current models are forecasting a 60% chance of La Nina conditions developing this fall, which would indicate drier weather to our south, wetter weather to the Ohio River Valley and Great Lakes, warmer conditions generally with a variable polar jet stream bringing in stretches of cold weather. Though the La Nina pattern would need



to be strong to result in a significantly colder winter, it may be unlikely to have a warmer than average winter on the horizon.

Columbia joins MarketReady Ag Economics extension team

Savannah Columbia has joined the UK Department of Agricultural Economics as an extension associate. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Farm Services Director for a 38-acre greenhouse that specialized in hemp and annual flower production. "I have also spent lots of time with Community Supported Agriculture operations, which is a specific interest of mine," Savannah said.



Savannah Columbia She works on the UK MarketReady Training Program, and is working to complete the Center for Crop Diversification's Three-Year Average Prices & Quantities at Kentucky Produce Auctions publication. Savannah, whose position is funded by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, spends her free time running for the Kentucky Beef Council's "Team Beef" and playing with her 6-month-old German shepherd. "I am excited to be back in the department where I completed my undergrad," she said.

Funds available for organic certification

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). Applications for eligible certification expenses paid between Oct. 1st, 2019, and Sept. 30th, 2020, are due Oct. 31st. However, FSA revised the reimbursement amount available through fiscal year 2023. Certified producers and handlers are now eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent (down from 75 percent) of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope. For details, [click here](#).

Thanks for reading!

If you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter, or you're not subscribed yet yourself, visit www.uky.edu/ccd/newsletter and click "Subscribe Now." Or call Brett Wolff at 859-218-4384, or Christy Cassady at 859-257-1477. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccduky/>

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