



## February 2022

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# Summit's goal: Vibrant KY local food systems

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## Coming up

**March 3** - Indiana Small Farm Conference, virtual, starting March 3. For more information and schedule updates, visit <https://www.purdue.edu/dffs/small-farms/sfc-2022/>.

**March 7** - UK Spring Vineyard and Winery Workshop, Horticulture Research Farm, Lexington. Free. Registration is required. For more information and to register, visit <https://uk-spring-viticulture-enology-workshop.eventbrite.com>.

**March 8** - Crop Insurance Webinar: FSA Resources. 12:30-1 p.m. EST. For details and to register, [click here](#).

**March 14** - Soil Fertility Basics online workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. EDT. Brought to you by Grow Appalachia. Free. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

*From The Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit Planning Team: The Food Connection @ UK, Bluegrass Farm to Table, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD).*

Registration is open for the fourth annual Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit, which will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Kroger Field in Lexington.

The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky, in partnership with Bluegrass Farm to Table, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development invite you to join in a full

day of breakout sessions, networking and conversations designed to bring together food advocates and professionals who work on the front lines of growing our local farms, food systems, and economies.

The theme of the 2022 summit is Harvesting Inspiration & Innovation. We're excited to welcome [Kim Niewolny](#) from Virginia Tech University to present the keynote address. More information about the Virginia Tech University Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation may be found [at this link](#).

The goal for the summit is to provide: (1) valuable connections with other food system leaders and practitioners, (2) innovative tools to approach local food system development (3) an update on the latest research, and (4) spur new collaborations and initiatives. By bringing great minds together, we hope to foster a state-wide common



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# Webinar series to help Kentucky farmers sell to local schools

By McKenzie Fox, Kentucky Horticulture Council

If you are a farmer interested in selling through the farm to school market channel, make plans now to attend this three-day webinar series – Bringing the Farm to School! Each day will focus on a specific topic applicable to selling into the school market and help you to create an action plan to get your products into your local schools. All Kentucky agricultural producers are invited to attend. The Bringing the Farm to School Curriculum is a national curriculum developed by the National Farm to School Network. You can read more about the curriculum and access all of the module summaries [here](#).

This series will take place March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 ET each day over Zoom. Day 1 (March 8<sup>th</sup>) will include the introduction and Module 1: Getting to Know School Markets. Day 2 (March 9<sup>th</sup>) will include Module 2: Selling to School Markets & Module 3: Choosing the Right Product. Day 3



(March 10<sup>th</sup>) will include Module 4: Growing for Schools & a conclusion. You are welcome to attend as many or as few of the days as you wish, but the curriculum is meant to be learned in sequence and would be most beneficial by attending all.

Register through Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/KYBringF2SMarch>

Questions? Message us at [KYF2SNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:KYF2SNetwork@gmail.com) or call McKenzie at (517) 525-5740.

## Interested in CSAs in Kentucky? Don't miss this virtual fair

From the KY Proud Virtual CSA Fair Facebook page

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offers Kentucky eaters the ability to support their local farms and farmers for a whole season and have incredibly healthy, seasonal food on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis. Sign up for a CSA farm subscription for produce, meat, eggs, flowers, and more and choose from a variety of delivery and pickup options. CSA is a membership that matters. [#kycsafair](#)

[Attend the 2022 KY Proud Virtual CSA Fair:](#)

1. Become a member of the CSA in Kentucky FB group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kycsafair/>.

2. Each day of the fair (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>-March 4<sup>th</sup>) view CSA offerings across Kentucky from different farmers as a social post in the Facebook group.

3. Ask questions in the Facebook group to learn more about CSA and what might be right for you.

4. Attend a live event during the CSA Fair to get top tips on CSA and cooking seasonally with your share. Details on joining these events is available [here](#).

5. Visit the KY Proud CSA directory for the full list of partner farms participating in the 2022 CSA fair at <https://www.kyproud.com/csa>.

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vision through collaborative discussions and strategy development to ultimately promote a vibrant and sustainable food system in Kentucky.

For Cooperative Extension guests, this summit qualifies for KERS credits.

For more information and to register for the 2022

Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit, please [click here](#). Check out the [Facebook event](#) for more updates.

Registration includes summit attendance, parking, coffee and pastries, a locally farm-sourced lunch, and a networking reception. For the complete agenda, visit <https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/kentucky-local-food-systems-summit>.



## OAK's Western KY in-person conference set for March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

*From the Organic Association of Kentucky*

The first of two Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) in-person conferences will take place March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at the Christian County Cooperative Extension Service office in Hopkinsville.

March 17<sup>th</sup> will feature tours of Rainbow Dairy Farm and Kentucky Organic Farm and Feed (KOFFI). March 18<sup>th</sup> will feature keynote speaker John Kempf of Advancing Eco Agriculture (Untapped Opportunities in Food Production), and a presentation by Kempf (Balancing Soil Health, Plant Health and ROI). Other speakers will be Guy Jodarski of Organic Valley (Livestock as Part of a Healthy and Resilient Organic System), Meggan Hain of Organic Valley (Kentucky Livestock Farmers: Riding the Roller Coaster), Rebecca McCulley of the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences (Climatic Resiliency of Kentucky Forage Systems), and Krista Jacobsen of the UK Department of Horticulture (Sustaining Soil Health in High Tunnels). For details and to register, [click here](#).



A UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY &  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLABORATION

### SPRING INTO THE PRODUCTION SEASON

Register for one or more sessions here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4k899hnn>

**Tuesdays on Zoom from 6-7:30 PM EST**

**February 15-** Tools & equipment for vegetable production

**March 1-** Ins and outs of fertilizers and soil fertility for organic vegetable production

**March 15-** Tomato grafting & root-knot nematode management

**March 29-** High tunnel crop rotation

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INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

**UK**  
University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Horticulture

## Kentucky-based project offers organic industry career training

*From the Organic Association of Kentucky*

OAK is proud to announce our participation in a robust Kentucky-based community project that will develop outreach and education materials about organic industry career paths and provide professional development training opportunities. Together with industry partners, this project will offer organic crop inspection training, develop and host organic apprenticeship intensives, create a toolkit for outreach and education to a national audience, deliver presentations and spread the message to diverse audiences, and host an organic Transition Trainer Workshop in spring 2022.

[Learn more about organic inspector career opportunities here.](#)

### Organic Transition Trainer Workshop

Frankfort, KY; Apply by March 5<sup>th</sup> for consideration. Webinars: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> AND in-person April 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

Do you want to deepen your knowledge about the

National Organic Program regulations?

Join OAK for this course that is geared to those who assist crop and livestock producers who are transitioning to organic or new to inspection and certification. This training is recommended for extension agents or other technical service providers who are working with farmers interested in learning more about organic production and certification. Participants must be able to commit to all five days of the training. For more information and to apply for Transition Trainer workshop, go to <https://www.oak-ky.org/transitiontrainer-workshop>.

This project is supported through funding from the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, and National Organic Program. Partners include: International Organic Inspectors Association, Organic Integrity Cooperative Guild, Kentucky State University, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK).

# KY Black Farmers Conference set for March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> in Lexington

From the Community Farm Alliance website

The inaugural Kentucky Black Farmers Conference, hosted by [Community Farm Alliance](#) (CFA) and [Black Soil: Our Better Nature](#), will be held March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center - North, 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington. Sessions will include organic certification, urban gardening, hemp, meat processing, and more.

Featured speakers include Tatum Lewis (Black-roots Farm, Clark County), Susan Miller (Miller's Farm, Lincoln County), Martina Barksdale (founder, SoulFeast Week), and Travis Cleaver (Cleav's Family Market, Hart County). For the complete program, [click here](#). Pre-registration is closed but registration available at the event. [Click here](#) to reserve rooms at the conference center.

If you have questions, contact Tiffany Bellfield, CFA Food Justice Organizer, at [tiffany@cfaky.org](mailto:tiffany@cfaky.org), or (859) 684-9138.



## HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP

**Who:** Anyone interested in growing crops in high tunnels!  
**What:** Workshop to learn about high tunnel production  
**When:** Saturday, March 19, 2022 1-4pm ET  
**Where:** Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability (RCARS), 130 Robinson Rd. Jackson, KY 41339

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Season planning
- How to set up and maintain an irrigation system
- Netting, pruning and general care for blueberry plants

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - [BIT.LY/HIGHTUNNELWKSP](https://bit.ly/hightunnelwksp)



We hope you will join us!

[info@kyhortcouncil.org](mailto:info@kyhortcouncil.org) • 859-490-0889



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service



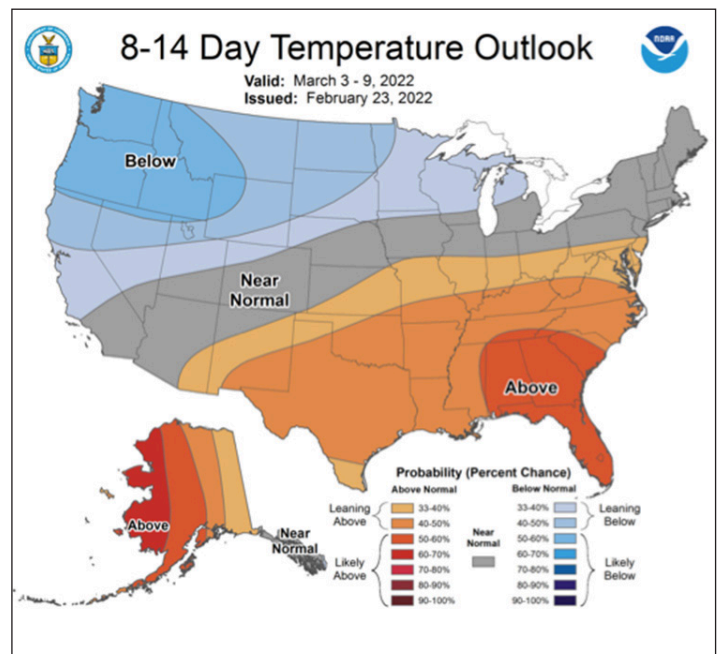
# Expect drier than average start to March, warmer overall

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an above average chance for drier than average conditions across the region in the first week of March. This pattern is expected to transition toward wetter than average conditions throughout the Ohio River Valley as we move toward the end of March.

The outlooks for temperature are clearer: March is predicted to be warmer than average almost entirely throughout the month. Currently, the picture for the end of March has equal chances of being above or below average temperatures, but overall March is expected to be warmer than average across the Commonwealth. This average is forecasted for March, April, and May as well.

It should be noted that warmer overall predictions do not preclude the possibility for isolated cold weather events, which can be particularly damaging to new plant tissue emerging in spring. Short



duration cold weather events after prolonged warmer weather as we move toward the growing season are of particular concern to growers for this reason.



**CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE**

*Selling Locally  
Grown Flowers to Florists*

**Monday  
March 28th  
5:30 PM CT/  
6:30 PM ET**

**Speaker:  
Dakota Moore**

*Cut Flower  
Virtual  
SHORT COURSE*

\*Preregistration is strongly encouraged.  
Register using the QR code or click here.  
Contact Alexis Sheffield at alexis.amorese@uky.edu  
or Kristin Hildabrand at kristin.goodin@uky.edu for more information.

## Kentucky nursery growers asked to complete KHC/UK survey

The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC), in conjunction with the University of Kentucky (UK), is seeking the input of all Kentucky nursery growers, including operations producing containerized and in-ground trees, woody ornamentals, and herbaceous perennials for the wholesale market. The purpose of this survey is to identify and assess the Kentucky nursery industry's current needs and preferences. The survey will cover items such as top business and production concerns, preferences for how you receive educational materials, and more. Conducting this needs assessment survey allows us to direct our efforts to serve you in the best way we can in the coming years, and we greatly appreciate your consideration in participating.

Please take a few minutes to complete this quick grower survey. There are two easy ways to access the survey. Please click the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022KYNursery>; or you can scan the QR code with the camera on your smart phone. The survey is 10-15 minutes in length. All individual responses will be kept confidential. If you have any problems, questions, or concerns, please reach out to Tara Watkins, the Nursery Crops Extension Associate. She can be reached at [tara.watkins@uky.edu](mailto:tara.watkins@uky.edu) or at (859) 257-0037.



**AGRICULTURE  
DIRECT MARKETING  
SUMMIT**

**APRIL 4-6 2022 7:00PM EST/6:00PM CT**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: Kentucky Horticulture Council, Kentucky Proud, KFB, University of Kentucky, KCARD

## 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](http://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/>

*Christy Cassady*

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist

