



**January 2022**

Brett Wolff, Editor  
Christy Cassady, Editor/Designer

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## Coming up

**Jan. 24** - Virtual Cut Flower Short Course. For more information, see **Page 3**.

**Jan. 27-29** - Organic Association of Kentucky Virtual Conference. For details, see **Page 2**.

**Feb. 5** - Kentucky Maple Day. Sponsored by UK Extension and the KY Maple Syrup Association. For details, [click here](#).

**Feb. 8** - Crop Insurance Webinar; Q&A with an Insurance Agent. 12:30 p.m. EST. For details, [click here](#).

**Feb. 15-17** - UK Turf and Landscape Management Short Course, Elizabethtown. For details and to register, [click here](#).

**Feb. 25-26** - Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg. For details, see **Page 4**.

# Need specialty crop info? Don't miss these CCD resources

*By Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist, Center for Crop Diversification*

Whether you are growing vegetables, fruit, cut flowers, or nursery crops, the Center for Crop Diversification has a variety of resources that can help you. These resources, many of which were developed or updated in 2021, include:

- Crop budgets
- Crop/system profiles
- Marketing profiles
- Price reports
- Interactive maps
- Videos
- Produce food safety resources

Are you looking for shared-use equipment in your county or a county that's close to you? Or the location of the nearest water testing lab? See the CCD's [Geographic Horticulture Directory of Kentucky](#). This resource will also allow you to find farmers markets, produce auctions, agritourism venues, and more. You'll also find a Kentucky Commercial Cut Flower Growers Directory, a Fruit and Nut Cultivar Nursery Source Directory, an Agricultural Service Providers Directory (including commercial kitchens), Local Food Systems Data Maps, and more on our [Maps page](#). Considering a new crop, but you need to know the bottom line? Check out the [CCD's budgets page](#) for vegetable and melon crop budgets (18 crops, small- and large-scale production), blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, peaches, grapes and more. Interested in cut flowers? See our nu-

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# OAK Conference offers three days of virtual learning

From the Organic Association of Kentucky

The 2022 OAK Annual Organic Farming Conference series is a must for farmers, agriculture professionals, and anyone interested in building more resilient food systems in Kentucky, the Southeast region, and beyond. This first part of the conference series offers 3+ days of real-time VIRTUAL sessions, January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Tune in to connect with a network of peers and experts on the follow-

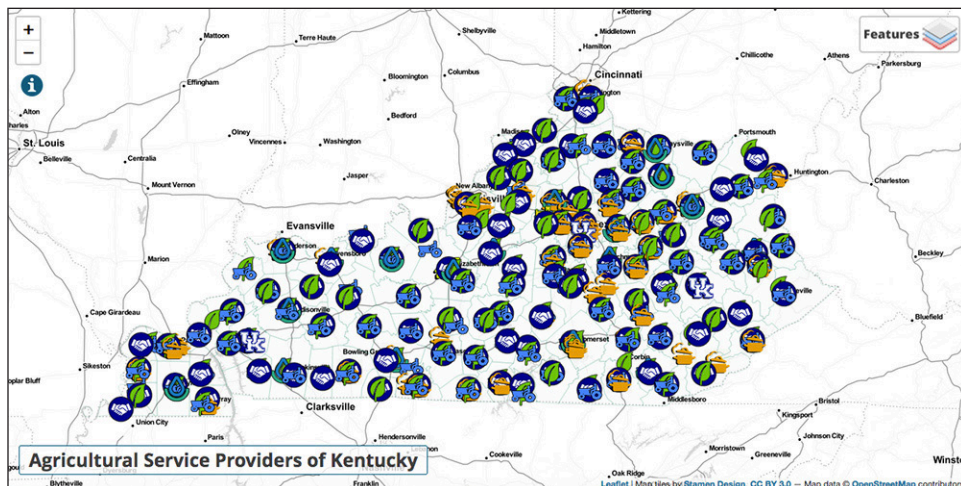
ing topics: soil health, organic crop production, research, farmer hacks, decolonizing agriculture, forage and grazing, markets, managing to reduce pest and disease pressure, conservation, organic for all, food safety and weed management. With generous support from Conference Sponsors and Partners OAK is able to offer scholarships to anyone who would like to attend the virtual event. [Click here](#) to register, and [here](#) for the agenda.

## Continued from Page 1

merous resources for cut flower production at <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/production/crop-resources/nursery-ornamental/cut-flowers>. Need help pricing your products? Take a look at our weekly [Kentucky Farmers Market Price Reports](#) and our [Produce Auction Price Reports](#). To see pricing trends over time, see our three-year price report publications for [farmers markets](#) and [produce auctions](#). Look for updated versions of these three-year price reports in 2022.

The CCD regularly publishes new and updated crop, system, and marketing profiles, as well as fact sheets on a variety of topics. The new and updated profiles/fact sheets published through the CCD during the past year include:

- [Growing, Harvesting, Preserving Appalachian Heirloom Beans \(CCD-WVU-FS-2, ANR-HORT-21-001\)](#) (From West Virginia University)
- [Making the Pitch: How to talk to retail outlets about carrying your food product \(CCD-MR-3\)](#)
- [Cut Flowers for Community Supported Agriculture Production \(CCD-MR-2\)](#)
- [Product Liability Insurance Importance & FAQ \(CCD-MR-1\)](#)
- [The Basics of Biofumigation \(CCD-FS-20\)](#)
- [Rotating Cut Flowers Within a Tomato High Tunnel Production System \(CCD-FS-23\)](#)
- [Cool-Season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast \(CCD-SP-18\)](#)



The CCD's Agricultural Service Providers of Kentucky map includes the locations and contact information for a variety of resources, including organizations offering shared equipment, commercial kitchens, conservation district offices, and more.

- [Warm-Season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast \(CCD-SP-19\)](#)
- [The Kentucky Produce Safety Program \(CCD-PFS-6\)](#)
- [Value-added Products: An Introduction to Policies and Regulations for Kentucky Producers \(CCD-MP-13\)](#)
- [Selected Resources for Developing Value-Added Products in Kentucky \(CCD-MP-16\)](#)
- [Marketing Asian Produce \(CCD-MP-8\)](#)
- [Ethnic Vegetables: Hispanic \(CCD-CP-97\)](#)
- [Organic Sweet Corn \(CCD-CP-110\)](#)

In case you missed it, the CCD published [Understanding Equipment Costs on the Small Commercial Vegetable Farm](#) in the fall of 2020. You can find a spreadsheet that accompanies this publication at <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/Equipment.Spreadsheet.xlsx>.

These are just a few of the many resources available to specialty crop growers on the CCD website. To see it all, go to [www.uky.edu/ccd](http://www.uky.edu/ccd).



# January Cut Flower Short Course features winter IPM strategies

By Kristin Hildabrand, Warren County Horticulture Agent

The January 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Virtual Cut Flower Short Course will focus on Winter Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies for Cut Flower Production. Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Extension Entomologist, will discuss several insects that can cause problems in cut flower operations and Dr. Nicole Gauthier, UK Extension Plant Pathologist, will cover specific cut flower diseases. The class is free and will be offered via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. CST/6:30 p.m. EST. Advanced registration is encouraged. To register, visit <https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudOupqzIqHtPNp6tnn5kNScT-2FGezibLV>.

## UK welcomes Nursery Crops Extension Associate Watkins

Tara Watkins joined the UK Extension team as the new Nursery Crops Extension Associate with the UK Department of Horticulture in January 2022. Tara's areas of expertise include ornamental horticulture, plant pathology diagnostics and disease management, as well as the development and delivery of educational programming for both growers and the public. Starting out, Tara will be assessing the current needs of the nursery crops industry in an effort to best serve Kentucky's growers and farmers. She will be developing online educational resources, designing and delivering virtual and in-person programming and workshops for growers, conducting on-farm site visits and consultations, and addressing nursery crop-related issues affecting Kentucky.



Tara Watkins

A native of central Kentucky, Tara attended Western Kentucky University where she received dual B.S. degrees in Biochemistry and Agriculture

(emphasis in Plant and Soil Sciences). During her undergraduate studies, she interned with UK at UKREC in Princeton where she fell in love with plant pathology in the Plant Disease Diagnostic lab. After graduating from WKU, Tara moved to Michigan where she attended Michigan State University and earned her M.S. degree in Plant Pathology in December 2021. Tara recently moved back to her hometown of Frankfort where she and her significant other reside on their farm, grow a small vegetable garden and a wide variety of cut flowers, and tend to their cattle and other animals. Tara is excited to get to know and serve those involved in the nursery crop industry of the great Bluegrass State!

Tara's work is funded by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. You can reach her at [tara.watkins@uky.edu](mailto:tara.watkins@uky.edu) or at (859) 257-0037.

## Eastern KY Farmer Conference set for Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

*From the Community Farm Alliance website*

The 2022 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference will be held Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Wilkinson Stumbo Convention Center at Jenny Wiley State Park, near Prestonsburg in Floyd County.

Friday afternoon workshops will include high tunnels, produce safety, integrated pest management, and selling to schools. Friday night will feature a guest speaker, dinner, music, and dancing. Saturday's topics will include business, production, funding, regulations, risk management, and sustainability.

All presentations will be geared toward the particular challenges and opportunities of farming in Eastern Kentucky and many will feature fellow farmers sharing their real life experience. For details and to register, [click here](#).



## Virtual, in-person options available for OEFFA Conference in February

*From the OEFFA website*

Registration is now open for the 2022 Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) Conference. This can't-miss hybrid conference will offer the best of both worlds, whether you like the convenience of attending events online or the conversations and connections you make during an in-person gathering.

The conference will kick off with a fully virtual day on February 12<sup>th</sup> that will help you learn and engage from anywhere with an internet connection, and then move to Dayton February 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> for more educational sessions, networking, community building, and celebrating together.

Ohio's largest sustainable food and farm conference offers up to four days of live learning, sharing, and connecting with sustainable farmers, gardeners, and local food supporters.

The event will feature dozens of educational workshops, in-depth Food and Farm School classes, powerful keynote speakers, an exhibit hall, networking, community conversations, and an interactive conference app to connect with other participants and access recordings through March 31<sup>st</sup>, so you can participate on your schedule.

For conference information, visit <https://conference.oeffa.org/>. To register, go to <https://conference.oeffa.org/registration/>.

## 2022 Pick TN Conference set for February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in Franklin

*From the Pick TN Conference website*

The 2022 Pick TN Conference will take place February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, TN.

Early Bird Registration is open now through February 13<sup>th</sup> and is \$125 for three days of learn-

ing. Registration is \$150 after February 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration includes tickets to Thursday lunch and wine tasting, Friday continental breakfast, lunch, and beer tasting, plus access to over 75 classes and a trade show. A new feature is the Pick Tennessee Products Market Place. For conference details and to register, [click here](#).



# Short NAP surveys can help growers with insurance claims

By Dakota Moore, Kentucky Horticulture Council

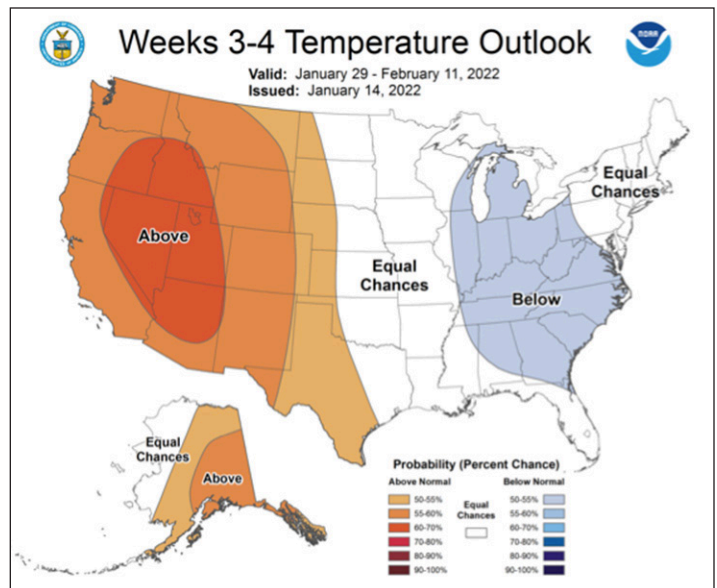
Do you grow and sell fruit or vegetables in Kentucky? The Kentucky Horticulture Council asks for your participation in two quick surveys, the Kentucky NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) Fruit Pricing Survey and the Kentucky NAP Vegetable Pricing Survey. These surveys help set a local pricing basis that KY fruit and vegetable growers can use for crop insurance claims! Without Kentucky-specific data, growers will have to use national data that may be significantly lower than local prices if they experience a loss due to natural disasters. No previous or current NAP coverage is required to take these surveys! Scan the QR Codes in the pictures with your phone or follow these links: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021NAPFruit> and <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021NAPVeg>.



than local prices if they experience a loss due to natural disasters. No previous or current NAP coverage is required to take these surveys! Scan the QR Codes in the pictures with your phone or follow these links: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021NAPFruit> and <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021NAPVeg>.



The Kentucky Proud CSA Fair will be Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>-March 6<sup>th</sup>. This local food event will promote CSA offerings across Kentucky. [Click here](#) for details about CSAs in Kentucky.



## Cooler/drier end of January, cooler/wetter start to February

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

While the last weeks of 2021 were remarkably warmer than average for us in the Commonwealth, the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an above average chance of cooler and drier weather for the last weeks of January. This pattern of cooler and drier than average conditions is expected to affect much of the eastern U.S. The experimental outlooks for the first weeks of February predict similarly cooler-than-average conditions. These same predictions are calling for above average rates of precipitation as we move from late January into the first weeks of February.

## Thanks for reading!

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*Christy Cassady*

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist

