



**July 2023**

Brett Wolff, Editor  
Christy Cassady, Editor/Designer

### ***What's inside***

Cover crop tool ..... 3  
MarketReady tours ..... 4

### ***Coming up***

**August 12** - Chestnut Production and Packing Farm Tour, Route 9 Cooperative, 4300 Germano Road SE, Carrollton, OH 44615. Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA) Tour. For details, [click here](#).

**Aug. 14** - Disease and Insect Integrated Pest Management of Fruit Crops Webinar. Noon-1 p.m. Eastern time. For details and registration information, see **Page 2**.

**Sept. 5** - Scaling Up While Lessening the Work: Farmer Collaborations and Efficiencies. Flourishing Herbs Farm, Scottsville, KY. 1-4 p.m. Central Time. Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) field day. For more information, go to <https://www.oak-ky.org/field-days>. To register, [click here](#).

# New three-year summary of produce auction prices & quantities coming soon

*By Savannah Columbia, Extension Associate, Agricultural Economics & Center for Crop Diversification*

The produce auction is a marketing channel for growers producing fruit and vegetable crops, nursery crops, and ornamentals. The produce auction serves growers as a market to sell large quantity crops while it serves buyers or consumers as a place to purchase bulk fresh, local products. Some of these auctions gross millions of dollars in sales each year and play an important role in our region's specialty crop market.

Every couple of years, we compile a Three-Year Average Prices & Quantities at Kentucky Produce Auctions report. This report compares average volumes and prices for 16 selected crops from the Fairview Produce Auction and the Lincoln County Produce Auction across three years, specifically 2020, 2021, and 2022. Each crop's page includes the average price and quantity sold across 2020-2022 and the quantity sold through both auctions for each year. The yearly quantity sold is a new addition to this report, which highlights the amount of produce coming through the auctions and the increase in the amount of product sold through the auctions post-Covid. In 2020, we saw an increase in products sold through auctions and will likely see that trend continuing in these post-Covid years.

This report is useful for producers interested in selling at the auctions or through other wholesale markets, buyers in these types of

**Continued on Page 2**

## **Cooperative Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties. Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

**Continued from Page 1**

market channels, and auction managers. Find the publication in early August on the Center for Crop Diversification website: [www.uky.edu/ccd/kypa](http://www.uky.edu/ccd/kypa). For those interested, price reports from each sale day at the Casey County, Fairview (Christian County), Hart County, and Lincoln County auctions can be found [here](#). An example of a crop you can find in the report is shown below.

Tomatoes: #1 & #2 Grade

Season Length: May – November/December. Fairview’s season is almost year-round.

The peak season is late July – August, accompanied by < \$1/lb. prices. High prices are seen for early season product with some uptick as supply drops. #1 and #2 grade tomatoes bring higher \$/lb. compared to small and canner tomatoes, even in the low-price points.

Pack Size: Tomatoes are packed in 20 lb. tomato boxes. The box must contain 20 lb. of net weight. Grade according to:

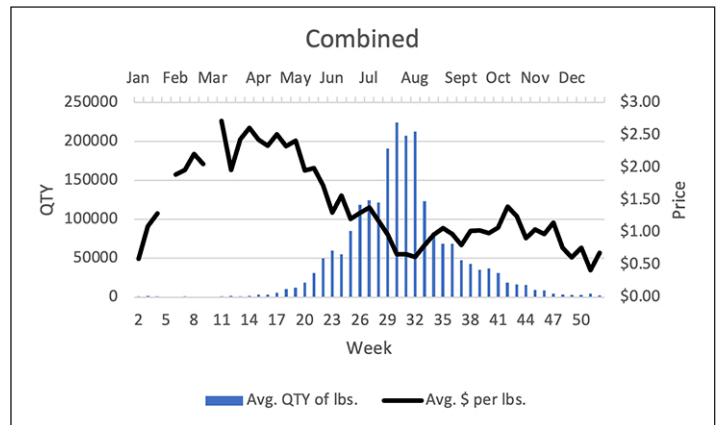
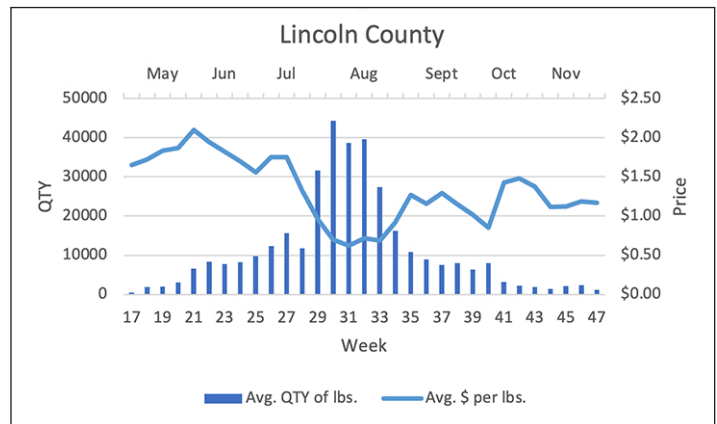
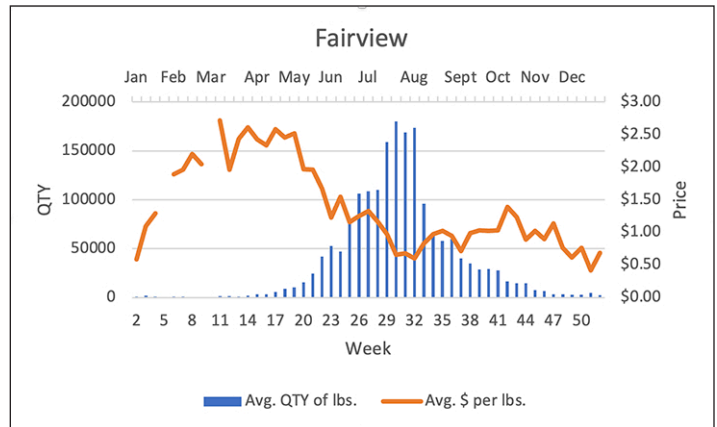
#1: nearly flawless.

#2: slightly flawed but no open cracks.

Sizing: Small: 2” – 2¾”; Medium: 2¾” – 3¼”; Large: 3¼” – 3¾”; Extra Large: 3¾” and larger.

Total QTY (lbs.) Sold:

2022: 2,002,222  
 2021: 2,358,050  
 2020: 2,046,729



**Disease and Insect Integrated Pest Management  
of Fruit Crops Webinar**

**August 14, 2023  
12 – 1 pm (Eastern Time)  
Zoom (Meeting link provided after registration)**

Join University of Kentucky Extension Plant Pathologist, Dr. Nicole Gauthier, and Extension Entomologist Dr. Ric Bessin, as well as Entomology Graduate Student, Ellie McCabe to learn more about disease and insect integrated pest management practices. Talks include information on common plant diseases and insect pests and their management.

**Register at: [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dgpxJt54U6XtB6S](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgpxJt54U6XtB6S)**

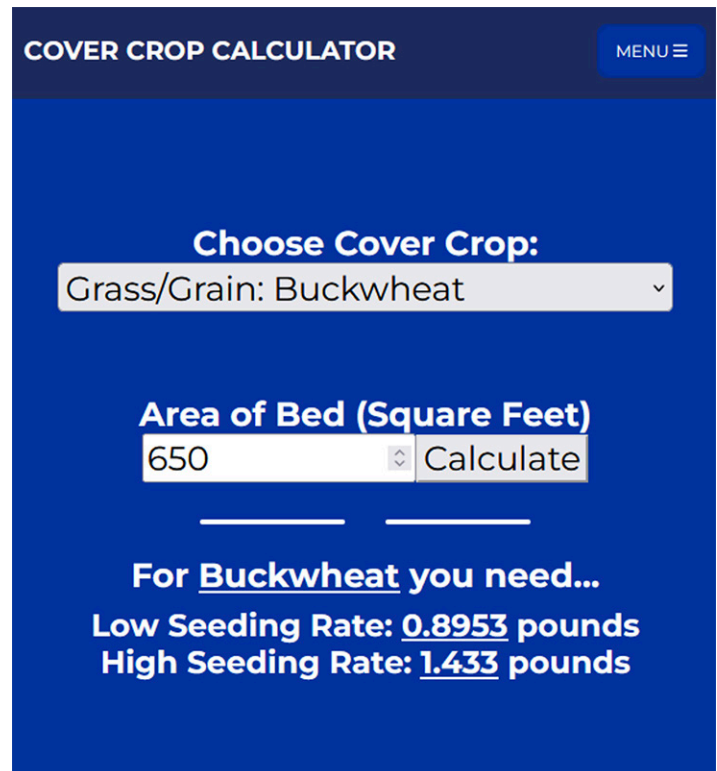
 **Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky.



# New tool makes calculating cover crop seed needs easy

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

In a collaboration between the Center for Crop Diversification and the Kentucky Horticulture Council, a mobile/tablet responsive tool has been developed to help growers figure out their cover crop seed needs based on area of management and seeding rates recommended by the [Third Edition of Managing Cover Crops Profitably](#), the free reference guide from USDA-SARE. Rather than searching through the entire 250-page guidebook and converting the square footage of a specific bed or management area, one can simply choose the cover crop and input the area of the bed to receive the high and low rates for seeding. The [Cover Crop Calculator](#) also includes links to the full reference manual, relevant Extension factsheets, and handouts of per acre seeding rates and benefits associated with select cover crops. For those growers interested in how the software behind this tool



works, the source code has been made available at the above link for viewing and download as free and open source software (FOSS).

## Next GET event to be announced

By Arundathi Sharma, Extension Associate for Controlled Environment Agriculture

After a great showing at the previous session of Greenhouse Educators Training (GET), in which LaRue County High School students presented their aquaponics facility, planning for the next webinar session is underway!

Our next presentation will feature Brian Prewitt, agriculture instructor at Whitley County High School. The session is expected to take place in early to mid-September and last no longer than one hour. Details of the event will be posted on UK Horticulture's Greenhouse website (<https://greenhousehort.ca.uky.edu/>) and will be additionally emailed out to previous attendees. Recordings of previous sessions can also be found on the same website, under the Videos tab (<https://greenhousehort.ca.uky.edu/videos>).

Please reach out to Arundathi Sharma at [arundathi.sharma@uky.edu](mailto:arundathi.sharma@uky.edu) with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in September!

## CCD resources update

New version of Christmas Trees crop profile is now available online

The Center for Crop Diversification (CCD) recently updated its crop profile on [Christmas Trees \(CCD-CP-67\)](#). Be sure to check it out, and if you missed the Christmas Trees 101 webinar last fall, you can watch the recording on the Kentucky Horticulture Council YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbYrP2Hk0EI>.



You will find many additional resources, including farmers market and produce auction price reports, on the CCD website at [www.uky.edu/ccd](http://www.uky.edu/ccd).

# Join MarketReady for Buyer Tours of Lexington and Louisville

By Savannah Columbia, Extension Associate, Agricultural Economics & Center for Crop Diversification

Have you heard? The MarketReady Producer Training Program is hosting two Buyer Tours in Lexington and Louisville, KY. During each tour, we will visit buyers for a grocery/retail market, restaurant, farm-to-school or institution, and wholesale distribution warehouse. The Buyer Tour allows growers and producers to get a behind-the-scenes look at what happens at these various marketplaces! Growers and producers will be able to ask questions, talk with buyers, and get first-hand experience with what it would be like to bring their product to a grocery or retail store, restaurant, or institutional buyer.

This is a great opportunity for growers or producers looking to make connections with buyers, see what selling to schools, groceries, retail stores, restaurants, etc. is all about, and make everlasting connections in the local food space.

Logistics and details: The tours will take place from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. EDT in Lexington and Louisville on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Both tours

are free-of-charge. Transportation will be provided to each of the tour stops from a central meet-up location; however, you may drive yourself. Please RSVP on our website here: <https://marketready.uky.edu/events>. Any questions can be directed toward Savannah Columbia at [savannah.columbia@uky.edu](mailto:savannah.columbia@uky.edu).



## OAK accepting proposals for 2024 conference programming

From the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)

The Organic Association of Kentucky's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will return to Kentucky State University's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm in Frankfort from January 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Share an innovation from your farm and receive free registration for the day! We're now accepting proposals for farm hacks, sessions, and workshops for #OAK2024. Don't delay - the deadline to submit is August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. For details on how to submit a proposal, visit <https://www.oak-ky.org/annual-conference>.

### #OAK2023 Recordings Released Monthly

OAK is thrilled to offer recordings of the inspiring and informative sessions from January 2023's Annual Conference for public access. OAK will continue to release new content monthly through October. We hope you enjoy and learn from these incredible presentations!

To see all the recordings from the 2023 conference that have been released, go to <https://www.oak-ky.org/conference-2023-recordings>.

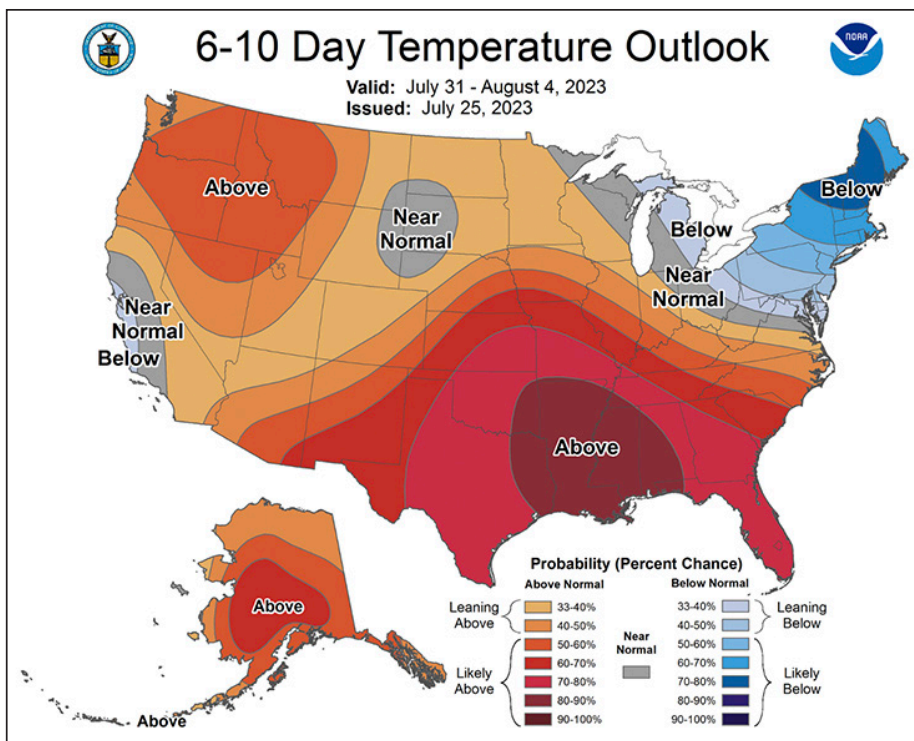
# August in KY likely to be warmer and wetter than average

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

Though the commonwealth has been somewhat spared from the excessive heat warnings occurring in the southern U.S., the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an above average chance for above average temperatures throughout the month of August. From August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>, there is a predicted risk of excessive heat for the western half of Kentucky.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration has a [“quick card”](#) and [other resources](#) for promoting good safety practices, protecting oneself and workers from heat stress by [recognizing signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke](#).

Though the first week of August, Kentucky is expected to have normal rates of precipitation, the



month overall is likely to experience above average rainfall, especially in the southwestern portion of the commonwealth.

## Save the date for 2024 OEFFA Conference in Newark, OH

From the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA)

Things are in motion for the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's 45<sup>th</sup> annual conference! From backyard gardening to poultry production to food policy, this celebrated event welcomes hundreds of sustainable farmers, gardeners, and food supporters to learn, shop, and connect.

The 2024 OEFFA Conference, Cultivating Care, will be held February 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark, Ohio. Registration opens this fall.

For information about the conference, including opportunities to speak, visit <https://conference.oeffa.org/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=cfb1db04-bfb7-421e-8a41-3ed293e37724>.

## 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 859-257-5635. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccduky/>

*Christy Cassady*

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist

Department of Horticulture  
N-318 Agricultural Science Center  
Lexington, KY, 40546-0091

