



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

Cooperative Extension Service
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What's inside

Strawberry survey..... 3
MarketReady trainings 7

Coming up

April 1 - Ohio Agritourism Conference, Loveland, OH. For details, go to <https://southcenters.osu.edu/direct-marketing/agritourism-conference>.

April 3 - Quarterly Cut Flower Short Course, Spring Cleaning Your Social Media. Virtual. For details, see **Page 3**.

April 4 - Soil Health Webinar. Speaker: Dr. Shawn Lucas, Kentucky State University. 6:30 p.m. ET. For details, see **Page 2**.

April 13 - Growing Under Cover on a Market Vegetable Farm. Pavel's Garden, Crestwood, KY. 1-4 p.m. ET. Organic Association of Kentucky field day. For details and to register, [click here](#).

May 1 - Regional Farmers Market meeting, Morehead St. University Farm classroom. Details on **Page 4**.

New Kentucky horticulture podcast is available now!

A team of extension professionals in Kentucky have started a new podcast, available on all podcast platforms. Alexis Sheffield (Boyle County horticulture agent), Ray Tackett (Bourbon County horticulture agent), Josh Knight (Center for Crop Diversification) and Brett Wolff (Center for Crop Diversification) discuss the business, production and joy of farming. Weekly episodes are posted every Sunday.

The most recent episode talks through evaluating new enterprises using some extension resources and some common sense. Previous episodes have talked about soil health, why you shouldn't call it dirt, considerations for those who have just bought (or are about to buy) a farm, and a general orientation to the things you should be considering as you start or continue your growing journey. The podcast blends science-based production and marketing information with humor, grounded experience, and general joy about plants, local foods, and engaging with multiple facets of the world of horticulture.

You can find direct links to the podcast on different platforms here: <https://american-podcasts.com/podcast/hort-culture>.



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Soil Health Webinar

with **Dr. Shawn Lucas** from
Kentucky State University

TUESDAY
APRIL 4TH
2023
6:30pm ET/
5:30pm CT

Join us as KSU's Dr. Shawn Lucas discusses soil health and how sustainable practices can play an important role.

REGISTER FOR **FREE** ON
EVENTBRITE



This webinar series is part of a Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) project.

Quarterly Cut Flower Short Course

Register Here

Spring Cleaning Your Social Media



bit.ly/cutflowercourse

with

Amanda
Lilly



Freshen Up Your
Marketing Strategy
Before Heading Into
the Busy Season!

April 3rd, 2023
6:30PM EST / 5:30PM CT



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Commercial strawberry grower survey will help UK develop resources

By Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist,
and Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate

Do you grow strawberries commercially? If so, the University of Kentucky Extension Specialists need your help! In order to determine future priorities and grower needs for disease, insect, and weed management, more information about the current challenges that growers

face is needed. Information can be submitted through a survey available at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eb5nmo54tJLxCBw.

The survey is quick and takes approximately five to seven minutes to complete. All submissions are anonymous. Responses to this survey will assist in the development of new resources and trainings for growers.



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REGIONAL FARMER'S MARKET MEETING

Monday, May 1st

Morehead State University Farm Classroom
 (Inside Horse Arena)

25 MSU Farm Drive—Morehead, KY 40351

Registration @ 5:30 PM * * Program @ 6:00 PM

Topics & Activities:

- *Updates from KY Department of Agriculture
- *Customer Retention and Engagement
- *Accepting More Than Just Cash
- *Display Booths from Local Businesses and Vendors
- *Preorder KY Proud Items from KDA and pick them up at the meeting to save on shipping.

Preregister by April 21st.

Scan the QR code or call
 your local Extension Office.

606-474-6686



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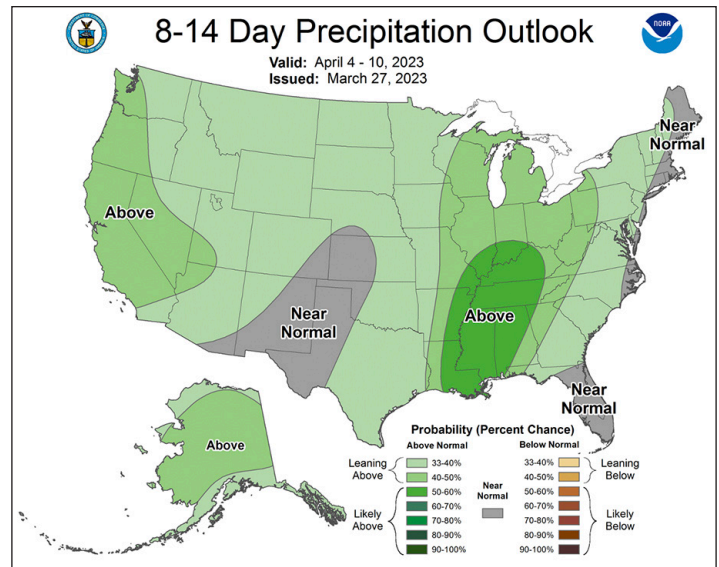


Expect warmer and wetter than average start to April

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

The first weeks of April are likely to be warmer than average, according to the [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#). An above average probability for above normal temperatures is likely for the eastern half of the U.S. and the southeastern region in general. In the second half of April, the current picture does not indicate above or below average temperatures just yet, leaving a somewhat uncertain prediction. Overall, for the month of April, the CPC is forecasting warmer than average temperatures.

A similarly consistent pattern is expected for precipitation as well, with the first weeks of April showing a likelihood of above average precipitation for much of the country, but particularly in the Mississippi and Ohio River areas. This wetter



than average entry into the growing season can present timing constraints with early season tillage and planting as saturated fields are easily compacted, rain splash can spread plant diseases, and not to mention general issues with flooding. It is currently uncertain if the latter half of April will be drier than average, be wetter than average, or show a return to normal precipitation rates.



Greenhouse Educator Training resumed

By Arundathi Sharma, Extension Associate for Controlled Environment Agriculture

On March 27th, UK Extension held another session of Greenhouse Educator Training (GET). Attendees had the chance to hear from the student greenhouse managers at LaRue County High School, who manage and maintain the aquaponics facility at the school. Recently, they have also begun to supply their own school cafeteria with the lettuce they produce. The session was recorded and is already available on [YouTube](#) and on the [UK Greenhouse Horticulture website](#). Please send any future GET topic suggestions or questions for the speakers to arundathi.sharma@uky.edu.

UK Extension vegetable research welcomes coordinator Pettigrew

Kathryn Pettigrew has joined the UK Department of Horticulture as extension vegetable research coordinator. She is a Kentucky native originally from Woodford County. A graduate of University of the Cumberlands, her background in commercial horticulture and ag education includes retail greenhouse production, integrated pest management, and community extension programs. Most recently, she worked for the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service as a horticulture technician. A member of the UK Vegetable Crop Extension team, Kathryn facilitates field and high tunnel research as well as the development of extension resources for Kentucky vegetable growers. She can be reached at kathryn.pettigrew@uky.edu.



SO YOU WANT TO ... MAKE BBQ!

MarketReady™



DETAILS:
VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

April 27th from 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Registration for this event can be found on the MarketReady website. Click [here](#).

Please join us on April 27th for a virtual office hour discussing BBQ! The University of Kentucky's Food Systems Innovation Center is hosting a virtual Q&A session over BBQ production and processing in Kentucky. We want to hear from you, the producer, on any questions or comments you may have. Hosted by Dr. Gregg Rentfrow!



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Food Systems Innovation Center

[HTTPS://MARKETREADY.UKY.EDU/](https://MARKETREADY.UKY.EDU/)

Still time to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

From the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Kentucky Field Office

Kentucky farmers still have time to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the deadline for submitting the ag census has passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring to ensure all farmers take advantage of the opportunity to be represented in the widely used data.

"Many farmers have already responded, and that information will be great for the future of Kentucky agriculture," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "There's still time for every producer to let their voice be heard by responding to the Census." Census data inform decisions about

policy, farm and conservation programs, infrastructure and rural development, research, education and more.

NASS will continue to follow up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Farmers are encouraged to complete their ag census either online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible.

It's important that everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they are not currently farming.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more.

MarketReady Program offering Digital Marketing, multiple advanced topic trainings online

The University of Kentucky's MarketReady Producer Training Program has several virtual programs coming up soon. First up is a Digital Marketing training on March 31st from 11 a.m.-noon EDT. Guest speakers will be Sarah Cornelisee from Penn State and Amanda Kelly from Southeast Kentucky Economic Development. MarketReady Advanced Topic Trainings will be offered virtually on April 5th (Marketing), April 12th (Risk, Contracts, & Insurance), April 19th (Logistics & Distribution), April 26th (Quality Assurance & Food Safety), and May 3rd (Packaging & Labeling). These trainings will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT. Another training, So You Want to ... Make BBQ! is being offered on April 27th (see Page 6).

All trainings are free, but the advanced topic trainings are limited to 30 people, so please register soon. For details about each training and registration information, please visit <https://marketready.uky.edu/events>.

Submissions to survey still being accepted

UK Extension and the Kentucky Horticulture Council are conducting a survey of all growers in the state who use coverings in their operations. Please fill out the two-minute [survey](#) and help us make improvements to our controlled-environment programming!

Questions can be directed to arundathi.sharma@uky.edu

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

Christy Cassady

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist

