



May 2023

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Buyer tours among many MarketReady opportunities

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

Technical assistance providers and growers from the area had the opportunity to visit Dalla Emerson (the Food Service Director at Bowling Green Independent Schools), Chaney's Dairy Barn, and Howard's Harvest Market to learn about new market opportunities and how they work with local food producers to bring local food products into their markets during a MarketReady Buyer Tour in Bowling Green, Kentucky on May 25th. Multiple participants were able to walk away with new ideas, market connections, and strategies to take their businesses to the next level. If you missed this opportunity and would like to participate in the next one, MarketReady will be hosting another set of Buyer Tours in Lexington and Louisville this August. Check out the MarketReady events page (<https://marketready.uky.edu/events>) for more information and to register. These events are free to attend and open to growers and producers interested in selling to schools, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. Feel free to reach out to [Savannah Columbia](#) with any questions.



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Coming up

June 16 - Kentucky First Farm workshop for beginning farmers. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Time, UK Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, Jackson. Free. For details, see **Page 2**. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kentucky-first-farm-tickets-638701091157>.

June 20 - Integrating Sustainability in a Solar Farmhouse and Organic Market Garden. 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time. Cedar Ring Greens, Frankfort, KY. Organic Association of Kentucky field day. For details and to register, go to <https://www.oak-ky.org/field-days>.

June 24 - Elderberry farm tour, Mucky Boots Farm, Peebles, OH. 10 a.m.-noon. Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association tour. For details and to register, [click here](#).



The MarketReady Buyer Tour in Bowling Green included stops at Chaney's Dairy Barn (left), Bowling Green Independent Schools, and Howard's Harvest Market. Buyer Tours allow producers to learn about new market opportunities.

Photo by Savannah Columbia, UK



Beginning farmer workshop scheduled for June 16th at RCARS

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, or Kentucky First Farm, is hosting a workshop for beginning farmers on Friday, June 16th, at the University of Kentucky Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability (RCARS) in Jackson.

The workshop is designed to help beginning farmers of 10 years or less get a start on their new agricultural business. It will include extension information, business plan writing, legal considerations, funding opportunities, speakers on topics of agricultural interest, networking, and a farm tour. The workshop, which will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EDT, is free.

Kentucky First Farm



To find out more about Kentucky First Farm, visit <https://bfrdp.ca.uky.edu/>. To register for the June 16th workshop, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kentucky-first-farm-tickets-638701091157>.

PURDUE SMALL FARM EDUCATION FIELD DAY 2023

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 27, 2023

at the Purdue Student Farm

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/>

PRESENTED BY:



Horticulture and
Landscape Architecture



Purdue Small Farm Field Day to offer variety of demonstrations

By Nyssa Lilovich, Purdue University

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Visit the Purdue Student Farm and connect with other small farmers to learn about topics like drip irrigation, organic pesticide options, high tunnel production, raised garden beds and postharvest food safety. The Small Farm Education Field Day, presented by the Purdue Student Farm and the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, will be Thursday, July 27th, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. EDT.

For a complete list of demonstrations and descriptions, visit https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2023/05/SF2023_FieldDay_Schedule_final.pdf.

Registration for the event is \$25. The registration deadline is July 20th. To register, go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/9322742f-bd03-4af2-880c-1c77f8592c1a/summary>.

Elderberry Workshop & Orchard Tour coming up in Missouri

From the River Hills Harvest website

An Elderberry Workshop & Orchard Tour, sponsored by River Hills Harvest and the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, will be held June 15th and 16th at the Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center in Columbia, MO.

The conference will feature more than 20 topics presented by experienced growers, the Elderberry Improvement Project Team, and more. Topics will include pests & diseases, the latest research, grower highlights, science, and more. There will be an elderberry reception & expo, and attendees will

have the opportunity to shop and sample elderberry products and supplies.

Cost is \$295. Lunches and reception included. Registration is required, and space is limited. When you register, please purchase a ticket for each individual and fill out a ticket form for each one. Please include any dietary restrictions.

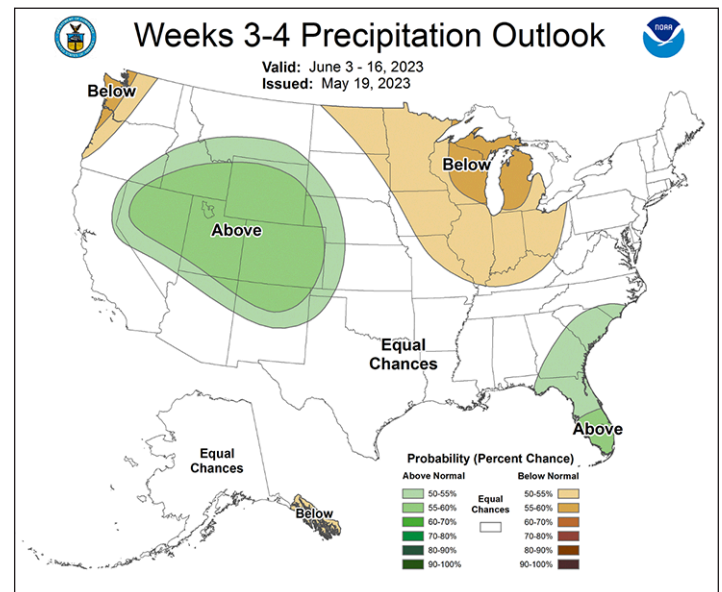
Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center is located at 2601 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203. For more information and to register, please visit <https://centerforagroforestry.org/event/2023-comprehensive-elderberry-workshop/>.

Growers can expect a warmer, drier than average start to June

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

The first half of June has an above average chance of being warmer than average across the Commonwealth and much of the region, giving us a preview of what is also forecast to be a warmer than average summer for most of the eastern U.S. The hazard outlook includes a slight risk (20 percent chance) for excessive heat across much of Illinois for the first days of June.

This warmer, drier weather to our northwest is likely to pass north of us, but result in drier than average weather for much of the state in the first half of June. Though the U.S. Drought monthly and seasonal outlooks do not indicate a likely drought development, it might be a good time to



test irrigation equipment and confirm it is functioning.

Organic Market Development, Small-scale Farm Grant deadlines approaching

From the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD)

USDA Organic Market Development grants will create new and improved markets for domestically produced organic products through investments in expanded certified organic processing capacity; activities that develop, maintain, or expand commercial organic markets; and organic product developments which create new uses for producers that currently lack markets. The dead-

line to apply is July 11th. For details, [click here](#).

Kentucky State University's [Small-scale Farm Grant Program](#) has deadlines of June 1st, August 1st, October 1st, and December 1st and funds up to \$5,000. Kentucky farms with sales between \$1,000 - \$250,000 in the previous two years are eligible. Priority areas for the grant are aquaculture/aquaponics, certified organic agriculture, value-added enterprise, food insecure area production, agroforestry, and farmer education assistance.

Got cut flowers? Don't miss out on this promotion in Kentucky

From the Kentucky Horticulture Council

Just a reminder that the Kentucky Grown Cut Flower Promotion is coming up in July. To participate, simply fill out the [2023 Kentucky Cut Flower Promotion Nomination form](#) before the end of June.

Each day in July different businesses will be featured in the Kentucky Grown Cut Flower Promotion group ([facebook.com/groups/kygrowncutflowerpromo](https://www.facebook.com/groups/kygrowncutflowerpromo)), and on the Kentucky Horticulture Council's [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to help consumers learn more about cut flowers in Kentucky and how to connect with local growers.

To see Center for Crop Diversification resources on cut flowers, including a [Kentucky Commercial Cut Flower Grower Directory](#), visit <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/production/crop-resources/nursery-ornamental/cut-flowers>.



Growing Organic with USDA webinar coming up on June 6th

From Farmers.gov

Are you an organic or transitioning producer looking for help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)? In the past year, USDA has upped its investments for organic agriculture, including the new Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) that helped create new programs as well as bolster support for existing ones. You can learn more at the Growing Organic with USDA webinar on June 6th at 2 p.m. ET. [RSVP for the Zoom event](#).

Topics will include:

- Assistance with certification costs;
- Access to capital;
- Assistance for dairy producers;
- Technical and financial assistance for conservation practices;
- Risk management options and benefits;
- Changes for producers required by the Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule;
- New wrap-around support for transitioning and existing organic farmers; and
- New grant funding for organic processors and brands.

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/>

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