



## September 2021

Brett Wolff, Editor  
Christy Cassady, Editor/Designer

### What's inside

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### Coming up

**October 11** - High Tunnel Winterization and Maintenance virtual workshop, 7-8:30 p.m. EDT. Grow Appalachia virtual workshop. For details, see **Page 3**.

**October 12** - Specialty Crop Insurance Webinar Series: What a Grower Needs Before Going to an Agent, 12:30 p.m. EDT. For more information, see **Page 2**, or visit <https://kyhortcouncil.org/cropinsurance/>.

**October 14, 23, and November 6** - Maple Syrup in Kentucky Workshops, Zoom and in person. For more information, see **Page 5**.

**November 1, 4 and 5** - MarketReady Producer Training, virtual. For more information, see **Page 4**. Registration available at <https://www.uky.edu/marketready/upcoming-events>.

# Save the date!

## KY Fruit and Vegetable Conference set for January 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> in Bowling Green

*From Sharon Spencer, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Horticulture Council*

The 2022 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference is scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn/Slone Convention Center in Bowling Green. The conference will provide attendees from beginners to experienced growers with workshops and networking opportunities covering many topics, including marketing, business management, food safety, and production for fruit, vegetable, grape and wine producers. The conference will allow members of the Kentucky State Horticultural Society, Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, Organic Association of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Wine Association to join in one location for educational sessions and chances to network.

The conference, which typically draws more than 500 attendees, offers trade show and sponsorship options. Interested in being a sponsor? Go to <https://kyhortcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2022-Sponsorships.pdf> for details. To register for the trade show or as a sponsor, [click here](#). You are encouraged to register for trade show space or as a sponsor by October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions about the trade show, contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Sharon Spencer at 502-782-4127.

The Holiday Inn/Slone Convention Center is located at 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, KY 42103. To register for the conference, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-kentucky-fruit-vegetable-conference-tickets-170228149979>. For details about booking a hotel room, go to <https://kyhortcouncil.org/2022-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>.



# New KHC staffer Moore plans specialty crop insurance series

Dakota Moore joins the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) as the Grower Outreach Coordinator. He comes to KHC with six years in greenhouse production, greenhouse management, and public garden management and three years as a floral designer. He received both his B.S. in Ag Science with an emphasis in Horticulture and M.S. in Ag Science from Murray State University. He grew up just outside of Nashville, TN, but has family ties to Western Kentucky, where he currently lives with his many cacti. His first project with KHC is a series of webinars and recorded content focused on specialty crops. The series launched on September 28<sup>th</sup> when the first recorded video was posted to the [KHC Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. The live, interactive webinars will begin on October 12<sup>th</sup>, with monthly webinars every second Tuesday of each month through September 2022. This series will help growers find the right crop insurance for their growing operation and prepare them to work with a crop insurance agent. Topics include Whole Farm Revenue Protection, record keeping, questions to ask insurance agents, and many more. To register, follow the link <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvf-iuqDgtG9PpErwxskqi8kZ3fVIRaULI>, or go to the [KHC website](#) or [Facebook page](#).



## Now hiring: agriculture extension associate for nursery crops

*By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture*

With support from the Kentucky Horticulture Council and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, the Horticulture Department at the University of Kentucky is hiring an agriculture extension associate to support the ornamental nursery industry across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The extension associate will function in a team of faculty extension specialists, other extension associates, and county extension agents to support the Kentucky nursery crop industry and increase understanding and adoption of sustainable nursery crop production practices. The extension associate will: consult with nursery growers to address production challenges; convey relevant research-based information; assist farmers wishing to diversify into nursery crops; plan and conduct on-nursery workshops or demonstrate production techniques during industry tours; produce educational resource materials in support of the industry; and conduct trials at commercial nurseries

### KHC hiring part-time water sampling tech

The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) is recruiting for a part-time position responsible for sampling agriculture water sources on produce farms in Central and Eastern Kentucky. This position is very flexible, averaging 10-15 hours per week. KHC welcomes applicants who think creatively to help us be the best industry partner we can be. This is a seasonal grant-funded position, working from a home base located in Kentucky. Compensation will be based on experience. KHC is an equal opportunity employer committed to maintaining a diverse staff and we look forward to receiving applications from a diverse pool of candidates. The position is available now, with negotiable actual start and end dates. [Click here](#) to see the full job description. To apply, send a resume and cover letter to [info@kyhortcouncil.org](mailto:info@kyhortcouncil.org).

and/or on the UK Horticulture Research Farm for high priority research topics and production issues. This position is funded through a long-term grant from the Kentucky Horticulture Council. Link to job posting details/application: <https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/352419>  
Deadline to apply: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.





# VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: HIGH TUNNEL WINTERIZATION AND MAINTENANCE

PREPARING YOUR HIGH TUNNEL FOR THE WINTER IS A CRITICAL PART OF MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT AND PROLONG THE LIFE OF YOUR TUNNEL.

10.11.21 | 7:00 – 8:30PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here: [https://bit.ly/hightunnel\\_winterization](https://bit.ly/hightunnel_winterization)



**GROW APPALACHIA VIRTUAL WORKSHOP  
LED BY MARK WALDEN, KAYLA  
PRESTON, AND CHRIS MCKENZIE**



**PROTECTING  
YOUR HIGH  
TUNNEL FROM  
WEATHER  
DAMAGE**



**DRAINAGE  
AND SOIL  
HEALTH  
PRACTICES  
IN HIGH  
TUNNELS**



**WINTERIZING  
IRRIGATION AND  
WATER  
CATCHMENT  
SYSTEMS**



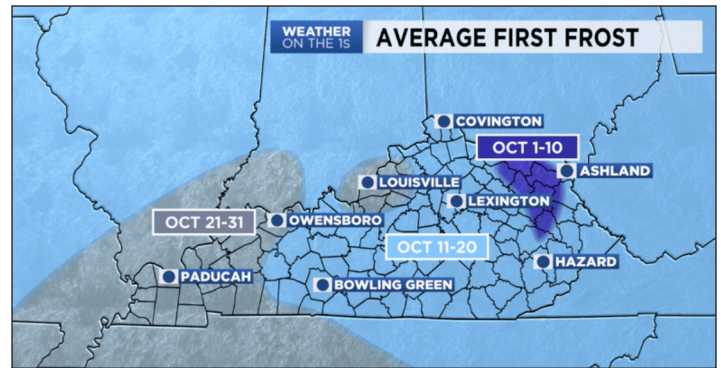
**PROTECTING  
WINTER  
PRODUCTION**

# Above average likelihood of warmer and drier than average weather for October

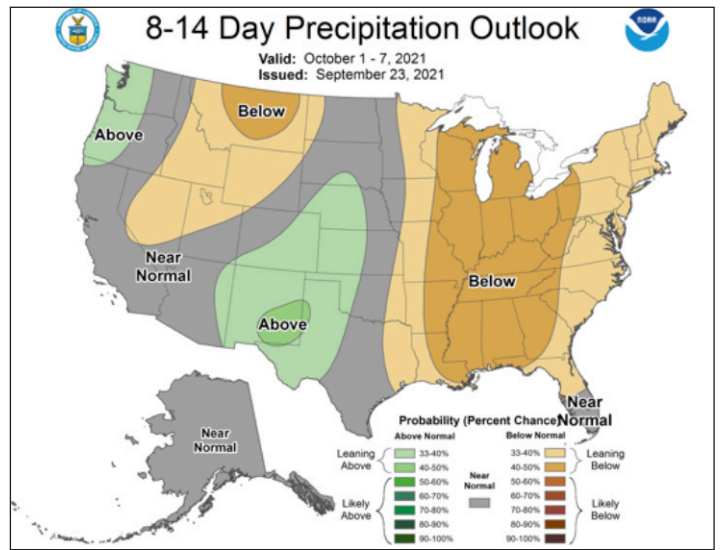
By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting warmer than average conditions for this time of the year across most of the country, but especially the northern Midwest. In an average year, one can expect the first frost to occur in October. This may very well hold true for us in 2021 even with the warmer than average conditions forecasted, so it's important to stay on top of the weather forecasts as the nights get longer and cooler while the days get shorter.

The precipitation picture is predicting a high likelihood of below average precipitation rates for our region and the eastern U.S. broadly, though this pattern may not hold as we move past the middle of October. In the second half of October, the experimental outlooks show an equal chance for above average and below average rates of precipitation.



Spectrum News Kentucky's Meteorology Center



## Market Ready Producer Trainings set for November, December

From the MarketReady website

This fall the University of Kentucky's Market-Ready team will be offering three virtual opportunities to attend a MarketReady Producer Training. Each training is 90 minutes and will cover the same material, but will be offered at different times in an effort to provide a training time that works best for everyone.

Check out the links below for our producer training sessions:

[Register for the Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> training at 6 p.m. EDT.](#)

[Register for the Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> training at 11 a.m. EDT.](#)

[Register for the Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> training at 11 a.m. EDT.](#)

### Advanced Topic Trainings

We will be following up our producer training with some advanced topic trainings. This will be a five-week series of topics on Mondays, starting on November 8<sup>th</sup> and running through December 6<sup>th</sup>. These trainings are also 90-minute sessions. You may register for as many or as few as you would like - there is no requirement to attend all five webinars. While it is advantageous to attend all the advanced topic trainings, you may pick the ones that interest you the most. Topics include Packaging & Labeling, Insurance & Communication, Quality Assurance, Logistics & Distribution, and Marketing. To learn more about each advanced topic training and to register, go to <https://www.uky.edu/marketready/upcoming-events>.





# Maple Syrup in Kentucky Workshops offered

From the Kentucky Maple Syrup website

Have you thought about producing your own pure Kentucky maple syrup? Did you know that most maple syrup producers in Kentucky sell ALL of their product nearly as quickly as they can bottle it? University of Kentucky Forestry and Natural Resources Extension is partnering with the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association and the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development to host four maple syrup workshops culminating with the 2021 Kentucky Maple Syrup School on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The workshops are free but registration is required.

A recording of the first webinar, Sugaring in the South: Maple Syrup in Kentucky, is [available here](#). The October 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom workshop, Maple Syrup Toolbox, will cover the next steps in maple syrup production, including collecting maple sap,

tubing, vacuum and reverse osmosis. Registration for the third workshop, a tour of the Davis Family Farms in Greensburg on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, is closed due to high demand.

The Kentucky Maple School will take place at the Letcher County Extension Office on November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. EDT. The keynote speaker will be Abby van den Berg from the University of Vermont.

For additional information and to register for the workshops, go to <https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/workshops>.

**SAVE THE DATES - UPCOMING KENTUCKY MAPLE SYRUP WORKSHOPS**

9/14/21 | 7-8:30 PM ET, Zoom  
Sugaring in the South: Maple Syrup in Kentucky  
An intro to maple syrup and what you need to know

10/14/21 | 7-8:30 PM ET, Zoom  
The Maple Syrup Toolbox  
The next steps in maple syrup production

10/23/21 | 11-2 PM CT  
Kentucky Maple Tour  
@ DAVIS FAMILY FARM - GREENSBURG  
Tour a working maple syrup farm

11/6/21 | 10-3:30 PM ET  
2021 Kentucky Maple School  
@ LETCHER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
Get to know maple producers and learn about current topics in maple production

REGISTER AT: [KY-MAPLESYRUP.CA.UKY.EDU](https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu)

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky

## Sorghum cane crushing mill available through KY State

From Kentucky State University (KSU)

Kentucky State University's Cooperative Extension Program seeks to assist small-scale farmers starting sorghum production in Kentucky. KSU's Center for Sustainability of Farms and Families (CSFF) can help small farmers develop alternative enterprises by reducing the startup costs of sorghum production.

KSU's sorghum cane crushing mill was engineered to enable small farmers to efficiently maximize the processing of sorghum cane into sorghum juice used for sweet sorghum syrup or other products. The KSU mill coordinator will deliver and provide operation and safety training to user clients. Limited resource, small-scale farmers in Kentucky that own their farm and are interested in raising sorghum to diversify their production may request the mill by calling mill coordinator Thomas Trivette to schedule delivery of the mill free of charge. Contact Thomas Trivette at [thomas.trivette@kysu.edu](mailto:thomas.trivette@kysu.edu), or at 502-597-6793 (office) or 502-682-5762 (cell).

## CCD resources update

Check out our new MarketReady publications

The Center for Crop Diversification (CCD) has two new publications in our MarketReady series, [Cut Flowers for Community Supported Agriculture Production \(CCD-MR-2\)](#), and [Making the Pitch: How to Talk to Retail Outlets About Carrying Your Food Product \(CCD-MR-3\)](#). Also check out updated versions of our [Value-added Products: An Introduction to Policies & Regulations for Kentucky Producers \(CCD-MP-13\)](#), and [Selected Resources for Developing Value-added Products in Kentucky \(CCD-MP-16\)](#) profiles.

## 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

