

University of Kentucky

The 100-acre **Horticulture Research Farm** in Lexington, located approximately 5 miles from campus, includes a 25-acre certified **Organic Farming Unit** (with a CSA used as an experiential learning opportunity) and a 5-acre research vineyard. Research on fruits, vegetables, nuts, biofuels, floriculture and nursery crops is conducted at the farm. A high tunnel research facility includes three stationary and three moveable high tunnels. All of the high tunnels are gothic style, with each measuring 30' x 72'.

Facilities at the Horticulture Research Farm include a field lab with multiple drying ovens, ice machines, walk-in coolers, a Model 1 Wiley Mill, and the appropriate laboratory equipment for soil and plant processing. A graveled and fenced container nursery contains a lath house and two unheated overwintering greenhouses. The greenhouse complex consists of 5,000 square feet ridge and furrow double-layer plastic covered greenhouses. In addition, the farm has an equipment storage building and a pesticide storage and mixing facility.

The Horticulture Research Farm hosts field days and workshops for growers and Extension agents. A classroom with kitchen facilities is available for workshops and meetings. The farm also conducts tours for growers and school groups.

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The **UK Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** project is a part of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Horticulture, and is an integral component of the Sustainable Agriculture (SAG) Undergraduate Curriculum. The CSA project links faculty, staff and students from the UK community with the Organic Farming Unit located at the Horticulture Research Farm. The CSA project is not a commercial farm and is not managed for profit. All financial proceeds from the sale of CSA shares support the production of food during the growing season and student educational activities of the SAG program.

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On the UK campus, computerized environmentally controlled **greenhouses** of 5,000 square feet are used for the Horticulture research program. **New greenhouses** were completed in 2007 for instructional programs in Plant and Soil Science. The 3,600 square feet of space is divided into three compartments and the environment of each is computer controlled. The foliage plant display used for teaching plant identification courses occupies one compartment. The other sections are used for production courses.

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Food Systems Innovation Center

The Food Systems Innovation Center, located on the UK campus, provides technical and business development services to facilitate the profitable production, processing and marketing of locally produced and processed food by Kentucky-based enterprises and entrepreneurs.

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The **Research and Education Center (UKREC)** at Princeton consists of almost 1,400 acres, with an additional 250 acres owned by grain commodity organizations. Crops such as corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, fruits, vegetables and ornamentals are studied for ways to increase yields and income, improve handling and storage, protect the environment and address other problems farmers may have. Approximately 1 acre is used for irrigated vegetable research. NC-140 rootstock studies (apples, peaches) and tree and small fruit research is conducted in a 10-acre orchard. It has a packing shed and a pole barn. The Center also includes a 2-acre research area with gravel beds, irrigation systems (including sensor-controlled drip irrigation), and an overwintering structure for ornamentals and nursery production of small fruit plants (particularly blueberries). The UKREC Botanical Garden includes daylilies and irises bred by Kentuckians, evaluates plants shared by SERA-27 participants, plants collected from Kentucky native areas and the nursery/landscape industry, and those released by international breeders and the U.S. National Arboretum.

The Rottgering-Kuegel Agricultural Research and Extension Building is available to large and small groups for classes and meetings in agriculture, home economics and 4-H. It is also used for a wide variety of meetings by government agencies, industry, and the general public. UKREC also has soil testing and plant disease diagnostic laboratories on site.

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The **Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability** in Jackson features research and Extension programs that focus on crops that could be important to the people of Eastern Kentucky. These include hops, brambles, strawberries, tree fruit, hazelnuts, medicinal herbs, sweet corn, cucurbits and other vegetables and specialty crops. Approximately 15 acres at the Robinson Center are devoted to horticulture research. Programs include:

- Fruit & Vegetable Production
- Beekeeping
- Non-timber Forest Crops
- Season Extension

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