



# Organic Association of Kentucky

*Cultivating Connections:  
Growing Organic Together for 15 Years*

15th Annual Farming Conference  
January 30-31, 2026  
Frankfort, Kentucky






# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION GRANTS

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RESEARCHERS, AG PROFESSIONALS,  
EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, ORGANIZATIONS,  
INSTITUTIONS & OTHERS EXPLORING  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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### PROGRAM CHANGES

There may have been a few changes to the program that were decided after printing. Please visit the registration table and/or check signage for updates. Alternate session and speaker information can be found on page 15.



# Organic Association of Kentucky

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bryce Baumann**, *Secretary* - Lazy Eight Stock Farm  
**Maggie Dungan** - Salad Days Farm  
**Carolyn Gahn** - Applegate  
**Steve Muntz**, *Treasurer* - Firefly Farm  
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**Julia Sampson** - Consultant  
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**Tonya Smith** - Kentucky Ag Development Advocacy (KADA)  
**SaraVard Logan Von Gruenigen**, *Vice Chair* - Central Kentucky Agricultural Credit Association

## ADVISORS

**Sean Clark** - Berea College  
**David Gonthier** - University of Kentucky  
**Krista Jacobsen** - University of Kentucky  
**Rachel Rudolph** - University of Kentucky  
**Mark Williams** - University of Kentucky

## STAFF

**Kenya Abraham** - Organic Transition Program Manager  
**Marissa Arnoldussen** - Soil Health Specialist  
**Brooke Gentile** - Executive Director  
**Sarah Geurkink** - Organic Production Specialist  
**Katie Harvey** - CSA Marketing and Outreach Program Manager  
**Mad Marchal** - Conservation Outreach Coordinator  
**Jenny Howard Owen** - Farmer Education Program Manager  
**Shannon Post** - Farmer Education Coordinator  
**Natalie Rider** - Associate Director  
**Jackson Rolett** - Soil Health Specialist  
**Robin Verson** - Membership and Communications Coordinator  
**Annie Woods** - FARM Tool Manager

## MISSION

OAK is a nonprofit organization founded by farmers, for farmers. OAK works to advance organic regenerative agriculture to improve the health of the environment and our communities. We are focused on growing ecological resilience, economic viability and socially just futures for Kentucky farmers through educational, technical and market resources.

Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK), welcome to the 15th Annual Organic Farming Conference. I am grateful that you have chosen to spend these days with us, because the work ahead requires the curiosity, innovative spirit and commitment you bring to the field, the office and this gathering. This year also marks 15 years of learning, growing and shaping local food systems together, and that is worth celebrating!

Together we are farming, feeding communities, earning a living and ultimately working to create the conditions so that more people can thrive. The shifting realities of climate, markets and policy don't always make our work easy. And yet, this community continues to push forward. You all are the most resourceful, grounded and creative folks, and it is a joy to hold this conference where we can lean into this spirit and imagine what comes next.

In the sessions and conversations ahead, you will hear from people who are testing new approaches, refining long-standing practices and finding creative ways to keep their farms and communities strong. I encourage you to connect. Ask hard questions. Try on new ideas. Update your 2026 goals. Embrace new collaborations. What you contribute here matters, and what you carry home can help shape your season.

Thank you for being here, for being a part of this community that keeps choosing resilience, innovation, continual improvement and connection.



Brooke Gentile  
Executive Director



## OAK CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

Maggie Dungan, Steve Muntz, Julia Sampson, Tonya Smith, Brooke Gentile, Jenny Howard Owen and Shannon Post



# PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING OUR SHARED ORGANIC FUTURE

OAK’s conference is an abundant community learning experience that supports the success of producers and professionals throughout the region. We invite and appreciate your active and thoughtful participation in the session Q&As, panel discussions, written reflections and feedback responses. Together, we will cultivate stronger connections for our shared food and farming future.



 **Wi-Fi:** Mills Lane Farm Center  
**Password:** farmfun1

## TAKE THE CONFERENCE SURVEY

We appreciate your feedback about this year’s conference! Your response helps plan next year’s conference content and OAK programming throughout the year. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, enter a drawing to win a free conference registration in 2027.



## ENGAGE WITH SLIDO

Some sessions, including all farmer panels, will use Slido for audience participation during the Q&A. Download the Slido app, visit Slido.com or raise a hand for assistance. Join the OAK Conference Slido with the code OAK2026 at Slido.com or scan the QR Code and “select room” to join the Q&A.

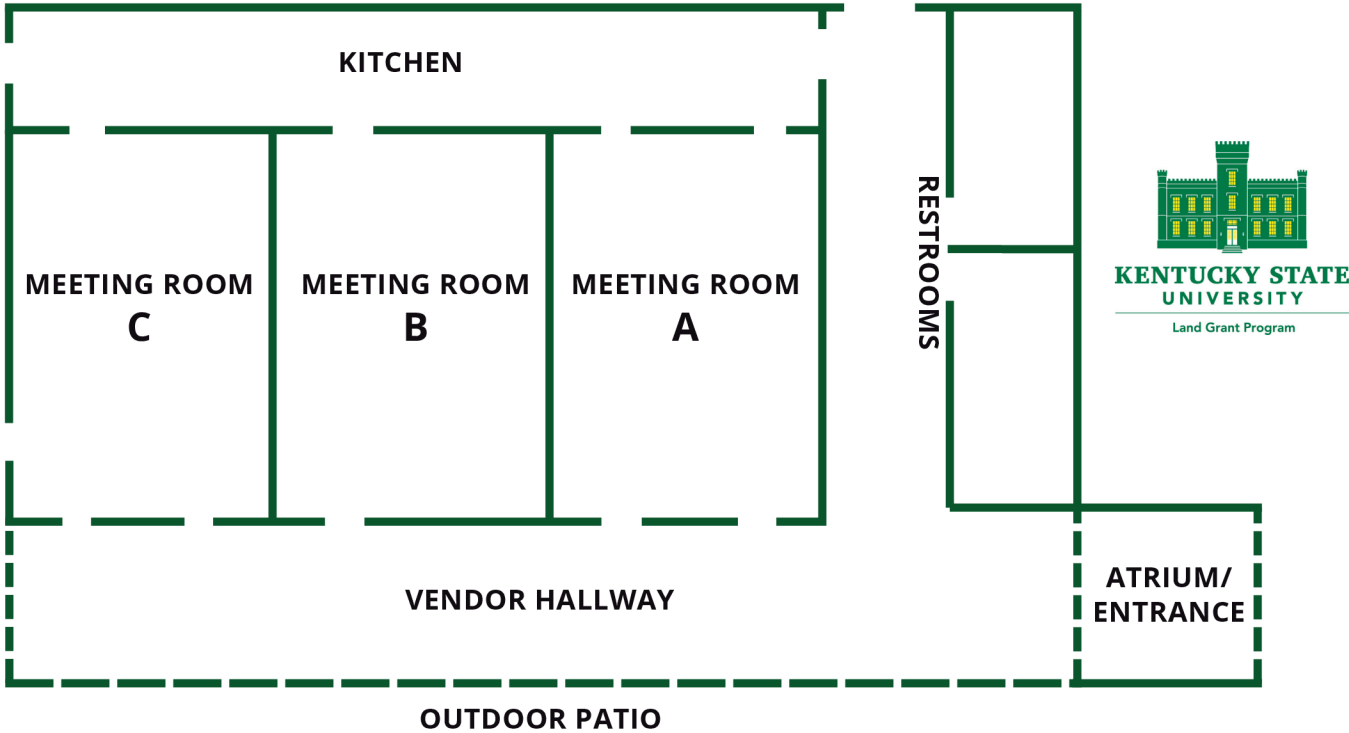




**TRADE SHOW HOURS**  
Friday, January 30, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Saturday, January 31, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

## VENUE MAP

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY’S HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM





# OAK PROGRAMS

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## FARMER FIELD DAYS, WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

These year-round events provide growers, graziers and farmers with multiple opportunities to walk the land of a Kentucky host farm; share about organic and regenerative crop, livestock and agroforestry systems and learn about tools and relevant research applications used by peer farmers. Experience community learning with peers and agricultural professionals. Explore past event summaries and recordings on OAK's website and YouTube channel. Watch for 2026 updates in our newsletters and on our website.

LEARN MORE



## ORGANIC TRANSITION PROGRAM

OAK's Organic Transition Program is the key to success in pursuing organic certification. The program offers free technical assistance for organic transition and transition planning, and can be paired with OAK's Organic Farmer Mentorship program. 2026 is the final year for mentorship opportunities, available for transitioning farmers aspiring to complete certification in 2026. The nine-month program is a paid opportunity for experienced organic farmers to serve as mentors, and the invaluable knowledge transfer leads to organic certification success for mentees. Pairs meet monthly, complete one visit to each other's farms and attend one event together. Apply now to be a mentor or mentee.

LEARN MORE



## CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

OAK's Conservation Outreach offers support for conservation planning and practices within urban agriculture and small-scale management throughout Kentucky. This program offers Field Days, webinars, farm visits, one-on-one consultations and relationship-building to connect more farmers with NRCS programs for cost-share funding and technical assistance. Learn more about conservation through land stewardship and schedule a free call with OAK's Conservation Coordinator today.

LEARN MORE



## ORGANIC PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OAK's organic production consultation services provide dedicated organic production technical assistance to commercial farmers in Kentucky who are using or interested in adopting organic practices. Through phone and virtual meetings and on-farm consultations, OAK's Organic Production Specialist can support farmers with crop and infrastructure planning; fertility; weed, pest and disease management; scaling production capacity and troubleshooting.

LEARN MORE



## KENTUCKY FARM SHARE COALITION

The Kentucky Farm Share Coalition (KYFSC) is a workplace Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program administered by OAK. It aims to expand direct-to-consumer market opportunities for farmers while providing over 20,000 locally-grown produce boxes each year to employees as a wellness benefit. By partnering with employers, KYFSC promotes healthy eating, supported by employer-sponsored incentives that make participation more convenient and affordable. This initiative strengthens the supply and demand for fresh, local foods and fosters long-term investments in Kentucky's food economy.

LEARN MORE



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OAK'S PROGRAMS:

OAK-KY.ORG  
INFO@OAK-KY.ORG  
(502) 219-7378





## OAK PROGRAMS CONTINUED

### RELAUNCHING OAK'S LARGEST PROJECT: FARM KENTUCKY

Kentucky farmers: Enroll now with OAK to access technical support and financial incentives over the next three years! Through the Farmers Advancing Resilient Markets (FARM) Kentucky Project, OAK is working with producers and buyers across the state to expand markets and increase the adoption of organic and conservation-focused practices. Participating farmers will use the Global Farm Metric - Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool to capture the full story of their farm's environmental, economic and social strengths. Enrolled farms receive hands-on technical assistance and significant financial incentives for adopting or expanding conservation practices that strengthen whole-farm resilience. Formerly known as the Climate-Smart Project, this effort is relaunching under USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers Program. Join us to grow your farm's future and Kentucky's regional markets.

APPLY NOW



### KENTUCKY PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

OAK has developed resources to help farmers find services, source supplies, make crop plans, keep important records and more. For questions about how to use and adapt these resources for your operation, email Sarah Geurkink (sarah@oak-ky.org).

**Kentucky Production & Technical Assistance Catalog:** Access producer tips and preferences on where to find inputs and needed services.

**OAK Vegetable Crop Planning Tool:** Generate greenhouse and planting schedules from a primary crop plan.

**OAK Field and Tunnel Maps Template:** Create maps to visualize your crop and rotation plan.

**OAK Organic Record-Keeping Template:** Download a digital record-keeping template that aligns with Organic Certification requirements.

**OAK Soil Test Aggregation and Records Tool:** Visualize and track soil test results over multiple seasons.

ed N	G or HH beds	DS/TP	in row spacing	town row spacing	row s/d	destination	Bed #	Date Seeded
200	DS	6	12	4 SE	1-8	✓		
200	DS	6	12	4 SE	9	✓		
1	DS	1	6	5 NE H		✓		
1	DS	1	6	5 NE H		✓		
1	DS	3	10	3 H4	2	3/12		
1	DS	3	10	3 H4	3	3/12		
1	DS	3	10	3 H4	1	3/12		
2	DS	2	10	3 H4	6,7	2/1		

VIEW THE RESOURCES





# OAK MEMBERSHIP

## BECOME AN OAK MEMBER TODAY

OAK Membership is for all. Join OAK, and together we can create a more resilient food and farming system. Your membership helps OAK deliver educational programming, provide technical assistance and enhance market opportunities for growers across the Commonwealth. Enjoy member registration pricing to OAK events and access member savings with popular retailers. OAK members at the “Family Farm” level and above are listed on OAK’s Find-a-Farm Directory. Your membership will power OAK’s programs!



[OAK-KY.ORG/JOIN](https://oak-ky.org/join)



### STAY CONNECTED WITH OAK!

Sign up for the monthly e-newsletters at the OAK registration table to receive updates on events and resources. Find us on social media @OrganicAssociationofKentucky

**\$20 Student | \$40 Individual | \$0 Free Individual Grower**  
**\$70 Family Farm | \$0 Free Family Farm | \$120 Supporter | \$500 AgriBusiness**



*Educating, inspiring  
and connecting people  
with new ideas and  
networks that advance  
healthy soils & healthy  
communities.*



### ~ Learn With Us ~



EcoFarm Regenerative  
Ag Field Day  
Jan. 20, 2026



Regenerative Tree Nut Field  
Day at Burroughs Family Farms  
Jan. 27-28, 2026



Society of Rangeland  
Management  
Conference Field Day  
Feb. 8, 2026



Women in Ranching  
Confluence  
March 12-13, 2026



Capital Commons Summit  
(grad students only)  
March 23-25, 2026



Gathering Fire Facilitation  
Training for Rural Women  
May 5-7 & May 12-14, 2026

Learn more: [paicineslearning.org/#sign-up](https://paicineslearning.org/#sign-up)





## FRIDAY SESSION INFORMATION

### OPEN MEMBER MEETING: IMPACT, INSPIRATION AND INTERCONNECTION

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Kick off the 2026 Conference with a celebration of OAK's 15 years supporting Kentucky farmers in adopting organic practices, participating in organic markets and growing a strong local food and farming system. Start the day with an inspiring community update, including a deep dive into OAK's programs, an annual member meeting and the presentation of the inaugural Organic Farmer Award! This award will honor a farmer (or group of farmers) who has made a significant contribution to Kentucky's organic farming movement over the last 15 years. Share in the learning and success of OAK's first decade and a half while imagining what the future could hold. Meet OAK's staff, board members and community and learn how, together, we can continue to shape a resilient food and farming system in Kentucky.



*Organic Farmer  
Award 2026*

### SESSIONS | 10:30 - 11:45 AM

#### GROWING YOUR OWN FERTILITY WITH COVER CROPS

Emily Oakley, *Three Springs Farm*

For the past 10 years, Emily and Mike of Three Springs Farm in northeastern Oklahoma have worked on reducing off-farm inputs by growing their own fertility with cover crops. In this session, Emily will discuss the overall objectives of their cover crop program, what brought them to start making changes to their production system and how farmers can think about growing fertility with cover crops in Kentucky. This session will dive into the soil test results of Three Springs Farm (Zone 7a) over time and how those results inform their decisions about cover crop varieties, timing and rotations. *The content of this session is tailored to intermediate and advanced growers.*

#### 100% GRASS-FED CATTLE: FARMER PANEL

John Bell, *Elmwood Stock Farm*  
Debbie Brann, *River Cottage Farm*  
Derek Lawson, *Foxhollow Farm*  
Chris Teutsch (Moderator), *University of KY*

Join a panel of experienced Kentucky graziers as they share the management practices that shape their 100% grass-fed cattle operations. Debbie Brann, John Bell and Derek Lawson will have a conversation moderated by Dr. Chris Teutsch about their livestock, forage and pasture management strategies. This session will delve into each grazer's similar yet unique adaptive grazing systems, including interspecies grazing, crop integration, breed selection and rotation strategies. While each farm uses different techniques, they all share a commitment to sustainable, pasture-based systems and are continually learning. Attendees

will gain practical insights from experienced graziers while understanding that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach.

#### WHAT GROWS NEXT: A COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIC WORKFORCE

Jim Coleman, *Coleman Crest Farm*  
Ryann Monteiro, *Organic Farmers Association*

How can Kentucky's organic workforce be strengthened to reflect the values and needs of our communities? This interactive session invites farmers, educators, service providers and young professionals to share perspectives on what is most important for sustaining organic agriculture in the state—what is working well and what is missing. Part listening session, part collective visioning, this session will center farmer voices while making space for others across Kentucky's organic ecosystem. Participants will engage in small-group dialogue, contribute to a real-time visual map of workforce needs and reflect on the skills, relationships and supports that sustain the movement. The session also introduces the Organic Career Network (OCN) and invites Kentucky stakeholders to help shape its future.

### SESSIONS | 1:15-2:15 PM

#### KEEPING HONEY BEES ON AN ORGANIC FARM

Dr. Tamara Horn Potter, *Kentucky State University & Hacker's Honey*  
Mac Stone, *Elmwood Stock Farm*

Honey bees don't just produce jars of honey, they play a critical role as workers at Elmwood Stock Farm, where certified organic and conservation-minded practices support pollinators of all kinds.



## FRIDAY SESSION INFORMATION CONTINUED

Before Hacker's Honey started their beekeeping operation at Elmwood, crops like zucchini struggled to fruit. Nearly eight years later, the beekeeper-farmer partnership is buzzing, from increased crop yields to additional value-added revenue. With success come challenges: managing hives on an organic farm requires communication because of swarms, varroa mites, "mean" bees and other considerations. Hear Mac Stone's stories from the field, Dr. Tamara Horn Potter's hive management insights and beekeeping resources and their shared efforts to keep the ongoing partnership successful.

### SILVOPASTURE ON THE CHEAP

Joseph Monroe, *Valley Spirit Farm*

Hear Joseph Monroe's story of how he has established thousands of thriving trees across all of Valley Spirit Farm's pastures for cattle and sheep with no money spent. Joseph will share the benefits of the trees for animal health, which tree species can work best and the details of his non-traditional silvopasture management system. He will draw on his experience in permaculture design and agroforestry coursework at the University of Missouri and the inspiration he took from the silvopasture ideas of J. Russell Smith's book, *Tree Crops*.

### UNCONVENTIONAL ECONOMICS FOR A FARM STARTUP (OR, QUEERING THE FAMILY FARM)

Hannah Breckbill, *Humble Hands Harvest*

Humble Hands Harvest is a worker-owned cooperative market vegetable farm in Iowa run by two first-generation farmers who aren't married to each other. The business acquired ownership of its farmland through a community effort to protect the land from industrial agriculture, running several fundraising campaigns to generate the needed capital to build the farm's infrastructure. Now, the worker-owned cooperative allows multiple farmers to own the land together and tend it on behalf of a local community. Together, they treat the community-gifted capital as part of a commons that decommodes the land. Humble Hands Harvest is also working with a land-investment cooperative to replicate their land access story on a larger scale. Hannah will share lessons learned from this unconventional way of structuring a farm business.

## SESSIONS | 2:45-4:00 PM

### INTEGRATING BIODYNAMIC PRINCIPLES IN A SMALL MARKET GARDEN

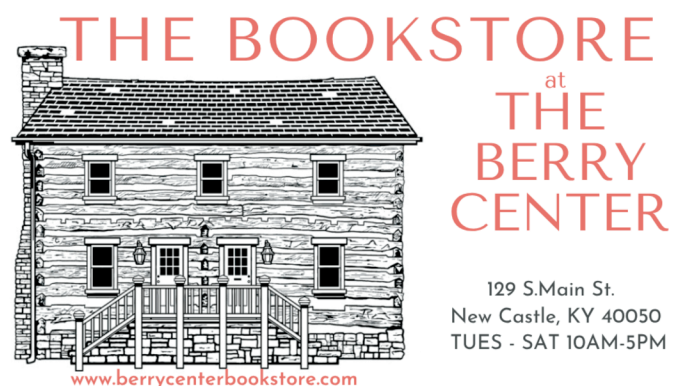
Jeff Poppen, *Long Hungry Creek Farm & The Barefoot Farmer*

A well-designed garden can be inviting, interesting and enchanting, while efficiently producing crops. Jeff Poppen will discuss cover crops, composting, companion planting, crop rotation, tillage options, mulching and using biodynamic preparations. Alongside practical information about drainage, remineralization and weed control, Jeff will delve into natural cycles, cosmic rhythms, biochemistry and homeopathy to help farmers understand how to grow food of the highest quality.

### HERBAL LEYS AND PASTURE CROPPING: INCORPORATING DEEP-ROOTED FORBS AND ANNUAL FORAGES INTO CATTLE PASTURES

Greg Halich, *University of Kentucky & Grass-Finished Cattle Farmer*

The upper layers of most agricultural soils are depleted in minerals and organic matter. Deep-rooted forbs such as chicory and plantain can reach into the lower soil profile to extract minerals unavailable to typical pasture plants. They also build organic matter at deeper levels and improve water-holding capacity and drainage. These deep-rooted forbs are relished by livestock and provide important health benefits. This session will show how to establish and use these forbs in an overall forage system. The session will also cover pasture-cropping: planting warm and cool-season annuals directly into existing pastures. Pasture-cropping is particularly helpful in mitigating the summer slump in fescue-based pastures and improving forage quality during the summer.



[www.berrycenterbookstore.com](http://www.berrycenterbookstore.com)

Sales support the work of The Berry Center where we are putting Wendell Berry's writing to work advocating for farmers, land-conserving communities, and healthy regional economies.

129 S. Main St.  
New Castle, KY 40050  
TUES - SAT 10AM-5PM



## FRIDAY SESSION INFORMATION CONTINUED

### FARMING FOR LIVING SOIL: CARBON, BIOLOGY AND CROP HEALTH

Ben Abell, *Rootbound Farm*

Dennis Chessman, *Integrated Soil Management, LLC*

Properly managed soils can provide important crop-growing benefits like enhanced nutrient availability, improved water storage capacity, greater pest suppression and environmental stress tolerance. In well-functioning soils, carbon plays an essential role in the soil biological processes and the physical conditions that allow farmers to realize these benefits. In this session, agronomist Dennis Chessman will highlight the management principles for improving soil function and the importance of plants in supplying organic carbon to the soil ecosystem. Ben Abell will share Rootbound Farm's practices that support soil biological communities and crop health, including cover crop rotations and livestock integration. *The content of this session is tailored to intermediate and advanced growers.*

### SESSIONS | 4:15-5:15 PM

#### WHAT TO DO WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE

Chad Conway, *University of Kentucky Extension*  
Angela Magney, *Magney Legacy Ridge Farm*

From chemical drift to personal loss, from tornadoes to team walkouts, organic farmers face a unique set of challenges when crisis hits. In this session, longtime Kentucky farmer Angela Magney and farmer and UK Extension agent Chad Conway offer a practical, experience-based framework for disaster response that keeps people, production and principles in balance. This session offers tools for both new growers and seasoned farmers to prepare for the unpredictable—because when disaster strikes, knowing what to do next can make all the difference. Participants develop a simple, written real-world disaster plan they can take home and adapt to their own operations.

#### DUNG BEETLES: THE UNSUNG HEROES OF REGENERATIVE GRAZING SYSTEMS

Nate Haan, *University of Kentucky*  
Joseph Monroe, *Valley Spirit Farm*

Dung beetles are hard at work improving pastures by burying manure, building soils and killing parasites. This session will cover what is known—and what researchers are still trying to learn—about how to manage for these beneficial insects. Nate Haan will share dung beetles' basic biology and ecology, emphasize their beneficial activities

and discuss what is known about how to manage for them. Joseph Monroe will share his rotational grazing management strategies for 100 acres of grass-fed cattle that minimize the use of dewormers that kill dung beetles. This session will include farming practices, scientific information, results from Nate's lab group at UK and the chance to examine some dung beetle specimens.

### ORGANIC VEGETABLE TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION

Steve Diver, *University of Kentucky*

Transplant production is the first stage of a successful organic market farm raising vegetable, herb and flower crops. This session will present the key tips for producing good to excellent quality transplants: seeding equipment, plug trays, organic potting mixes and bulk and liquid organic fertilizers, including trending methods like vermicomposts and biofertilizers that result in dramatic growth improvements. Steve Diver will share lessons learned from raising thousands of organic flats over the past 12 years -- plus results from trialing novel soil amendments -- at UK's Horticulture Research Farm. Participants will receive a handout with tips on amendments, potting mix recipes, calculations and references.

#### FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT STRETCH BREAKS RIGHT WALL OF MEETING ROOM A

**AM** Friday & Saturday, 8:40-8:50 am  
with Jaime Rice, *Lost Acres Farm*

**PM** Fri., 2:30-2:40 pm & Sat., 2:15-2:25 pm  
with Megan Pillsbury, *Seedleaf*

This stretch break prioritizes the well-being of our farming community. Participants will be guided through accessible movements to keep them grounded and functioning optimally, positively impacting farmer wellness. No experience is necessary; all are welcome!



**KENTUCKY**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**

### KENTUCKY'S ACCREDITED ORGANIC CERTIFIER

Brett McQueary  
organic@ky.gov

(502)782-4114  
www.kyagr.com



## SATURDAY SESSION INFORMATION

### OPENING SESSION: WOMEN FARMER PANEL

9:00 - 10:15 AM

The number of women farmers is rising in the United States—over a third of farmers are women—yet this falls significantly below the global average. The U.S. Census of Agriculture finds that women-



**Hannah Breckbill**  
*Humble Hands Harvest*



**Fatima Jackson**  
*Action Jackson Farm*



**Emily Oakley**  
*Three Springs Farm*



**Robin Verson**  
*Hill & Hollow Farm & OAK*



**Rae Strobel**  
Moderator  
*Barr Farms*

operated farms tend to be smaller, and that women farmers make up a greater portion of sustainable and organic farm operators than industrial farm operators. Hear four women farmers share unique stories of how they chose to get into farming, what sustains them in the work and how farming as a woman (and other identities) shapes the way they farm and the communities they cultivate. The farmer-panelists will discuss both the challenges and the superpowers of life as a woman farmer and engage audience questions during this opening session in honor of the International Year of the Woman Farmer: 2026.

### SESSIONS | 10:30 - 11:45 AM

#### LANDRACE SEED SELECTION & SAVING FOR SMALL FARM RESILIENCE

Susana Lein, *Salamander Springs Farm*

Locally-adapted landrace seeds are an important component of regenerative farming practices. Maintaining seeds with enough genetic diversity for continual adaptation is crucial for producing nutrient-dense crops that are resilient to changing climate conditions. Susana Lein will share about the pollination and seed production of different crop families and how to harvest, dry, process and store seeds at a low-tech, small-farm or garden scale. Susana will include information on developing and maintaining seed for staple crops of traditional American milpa agriculture, which she learned from Mayan farmers in Latin America.

#### FARMING WITH FAMILIES PANEL

Madeline Bela, *Hill & Hollow Farm*

Davida Flowers, *Davida's Flowers & Majestic Greens Farm*

Jessica Lopez, *Lopez Land Farm*

Hannah Crabtree (Moderator), *Rough Draft Farm*

Join this panel of farmers who will share their unique experiences of the “family” in “family farming.” This conversation among farmers at different stages of raising children while farming or being raised on the farm will explore the joys, complexities and challenges of farming with families. Topics will include farming while pregnant, childcare and schooling decisions, working alongside children or parents, work-life balance when home is the workplace and different

life stages and their effects on roles and engagement. Moderator Hannah Crabtree will engage audience questions to help shape the discussion.

#### VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING OF CHESTNUTS AND ACORNS

Michelle Ajamian, *Rural Action*

Amy Miller, *Route 9 Cooperative*

Discover how chestnuts and acorns are being transformed into delicious, value-added products made viable for local and regional markets with cooperatives and processing hubs. Michelle Ajamian and Amy Miller will explore post-harvest processing techniques and culinary uses for dried chestnut and acorn products. They will share about working with bakers, brewers, chefs and more. This session will include samples of chestnut and acorn products for participants to taste and evaluate, the results of the first acorn roasting and milling and how adding these products to Route 9's product line helps the co-op sell ingredients to their local food and beverage industry in eastern Ohio.





# FRIDAY PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

	MEETING ROOM C	MEETING ROOM B	MEETING ROOM A
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION, COFFEE &amp; TEA</b> <b>(8:40-8:50 AM) STRETCH BREAK</b> - RIGHT WALL MTG ROOM A <i>with Jaime Rice</i>		
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>OPEN MEMBER MEETING: IMPACT, INSPIRATION AND INTERCONNECTION</b> <i>OAK Staff &amp; Board, 20206 Organic Farmer Awardees</i>		
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>GROWING YOUR OWN FERTILITY WITH COVER CROPS</b> <i>Emily Oakley</i>	<b>100% GRASS-FED CATTLE: FARMER PANEL</b> <i>John Bell, Debbie Brann, Derek Lawson Moderator: Chris Teutsch</i>	<b>WHAT GROWS NEXT: A COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIC WORKFORCE</b> <i>Jim Coleman, Ryann Monteiro</i>
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	<b>LUNCH BY FARM TO FORK</b>		
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>KEEPING HONEY BEES ON AN ORGANIC FARM</b> <i>Dr. Tamara Horn Potter, Mac Stone</i>	<b>SILVOPASTURE ON THE CHEAP</b> <i>Joseph Monroe</i>	<b>UNCONVENTIONAL ECONOMICS FOR A FARM STARTUP (OR, QUEERING THE FAMILY FARM)</b> <i>Hannah Breckbill</i>
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	<b>TRADE SHOW   (2:30-2:40 PM) STRETCH BREAK</b> - RIGHT WALL MTG ROOM A <i>with Megan Pillsbury</i>		
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>INTEGRATING BIODYNAMIC PRINCIPLES IN A SMALL MARKET GARDEN</b> <i>Jeff Poppen</i>	<b>HERBAL LEYS AND PASTURE CROPPING: INCORPORATING DEEP-ROOTED FORBS AND ANNUAL FORAGES INTO CATTLE PASTURES</b> <i>Greg Halich</i>	<b>FARMING FOR LIVING SOIL: CARBON, BIOLOGY AND CROP HEALTH</b> <i>Ben Abell, Dennis Chessman</i>
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	<b>WHAT TO DO WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE</b> <i>Chad Conway, Angela Magney</i>	<b>DUNG BEETLES: THE UNSUNG HEROES OF REGENERATIVE GRAZING SYSTEMS</b> <i>Nate Haan, Joseph Monroe</i>	<b>ORGANIC VEGETABLE TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION</b> <i>Steve Diver</i>

#OAK2026 - OAK'S 15TH ANNUAL FARMING CONFERENCE

ALL TIMES EASTERN STANDARD TIME



# SATURDAY PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

	MEETING ROOM C	MEETING ROOM B	MEETING ROOM A
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION, COFFEE &amp; TEA</b> <b>(8:40-8:50 AM) STRETCH BREAK</b> - RIGHT WALL MTG ROOM A <i>with Jaime Rice</i>		
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>WOMEN FARMER PANEL</b> <i>Hannah Breckbill, Fatima Jackson, Emily Oakley, Robin Verson</i> <i>Moderator: Rae Strobel</i>		
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>LANDRACE SEED SELECTION &amp; SAVING FOR SMALL FARM RESILIENCE</b> <i>Susana Lein</i>	<b>FARMING WITH FAMILIES PANEL</b> <i>Madeline Bela, Davida Flowers, Jessica Lopez</i> <i>Moderator: Hannah Crabtree</i>	<b>VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING OF CHESTNUTS AND ACORNS</b> <i>Michelle Ajamian, Amy Miller</i>
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	<b>LUNCH BY FARM TO FORK</b>		
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>THE BEREA URBAN FARM: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES BY FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS</b> <i>Richard Olson</i>	<b>BUILDING A FARM-TO-SHELF PRODUCT BRAND</b> <i>Sarah Barney</i>	<b>TAP INTO KENTUCKY'S FOREST FARMING NETWORK</b> <i>Anna Lucio, Storey Slone</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>TRADE SHOW   (2:15-2:25 PM) STRETCH BREAK</b> - RIGHT WALL MTG ROOM A <i>with Megan Pillsbury</i>		
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	<b>CONSIDERATIONS FOR VALUE-ADDED HERBAL PRODUCTS: BALANCING TRADITION AND QUALITY WITH REGULATIONS</b> <i>Lauren Kallmeyer</i>	<b>BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED EDUCATION</b> <i>Makeda Freeman-Woods, Kinshasta Reed, T'Von Terry</i> <i>Moderator: Taylor Ryan</i>	<b>A LOOK INTO INDOOR CULINARY MUSHROOM PRODUCTION</b> <i>Emma Goetzinger</i>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>URBAN FOOD FORESTS AND THE PERMACULTURE REVOLUTION</b> <i>Leandro "Nachie" Braga</i>	<b>WORTH IT/NOT WORTH IT: VEGETABLE FARMER PANEL</b> <i>Pavel Ovechkin, Zach Selby, Annie Woods</i> <i>Moderator: Krista Jacobsen</i>	<b>MAKING MOTHER'S DAY BLOOM: HIGH-QUALITY CUT FLOWERS</b> <i>Alexis Sheffield</i>

#OAK2026 - OAK'S 15TH ANNUAL FARMING CONFERENCE

ALL TIMES EASTERN STANDARD TIME

## SATURDAY SESSION INFORMATION CONTINUED

### SESSIONS | 1:15-2:15 PM

#### **THE BEREA URBAN FARM: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES BY FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS**

Richard Olson, *Berea Urban Farm*

The industrial food system is under the stress of climate change, resource depletion, economic fragility and social and political disruptions. The Berea Urban Farm (BUF) works within this context to increase local food security and community health. The BUF's strategy involves developing and supporting relationships that increase community food production and resilience. Urban agriculture can provide a food buffer for cities and towns; connections across economic, political and religious divides; a link between urban and rural and connections to nature. The BUF's programs include the Pharmacy Project (Food is Medicine), Berea Medicinal Herb Club, Berea Seed Growers, Victory Garden Blitz and the ARK (Acts of Restorative Kindness). This session will include a small group discussion applying BUF's framework to participants' own farms and communities.

#### **BUILDING A FARM-TO-SHELF PRODUCT BRAND**

Sarah Barney, *Among the Oaks Herb Farm*

Dive deep into an exciting farm business model: developing a specialty farm-to-shelf, value-added product brand. Sarah Barney will use her own farm and experience developing a farm-to-cup tea company as a case study. Participants will learn how to create their own food/drink brand and build their farm business around it. This session will explore the pros and cons of this business model, how to identify viable products, branding and marketing and how to cultivate sales channels.

#### **TAP INTO KENTUCKY'S FOREST FARMING NETWORK**

Anna Lucio, *Kentucky Department of Agriculture*  
Storey Slone, *Grow Appalachia*

Interested in farming your woodlands or growing forest plants, often foraged, for commercial sale? Kentucky forest farming offers landowners an alternative to managing forested property beyond timber and ruminant grazing by cultivating crops beneath a forest canopy. This session offers inspiration and practical guidance and explores opportunities in forest farming. Speakers will share a snapshot of popular crops, along with a realistic look at markets and challenges, and provide details about the Kentucky Ginseng Grower Pilot Program.

### SESSIONS | 2:30-3:45 PM

#### **CONSIDERATIONS FOR VALUE-ADDED HERBAL PRODUCTS: BALANCING TRADITION AND QUALITY WITH REGULATIONS**

Lauren Kallmeyer, *Resilient Roots*

How does the rich tradition of herbal medicine interact with modern regulations? Lauren Kallmeyer will discuss regulatory, public health and scientific considerations of herbal products while offering practical considerations for approachable ways to add value-added herbal products to your farm. Products discussed may include salves, teas, tinctures, syrups and vinegar extracts. This session will include an overview of state and federal regulations that pertain to the marketing and selling of herbal products.

#### **BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED EDUCATION**

Makeda Freeman-Woods, Kinshasta Reed & Taylor Ryan (Moderator), *Change Today, Change Tomorrow*

T'Von Terry, *Change Today, Change Tomorrow & 5th Element Farms*

This session will explore how farmers, educators and organizers are building resilient food systems in Kentucky by centering education and collective action. Panelists will share strategies for engaging communities in food justice work, replicable practices for starting working groups and lessons learned from grassroots collaboration. Participants will engage in a facilitated, small group discussion and will leave the session with practical tools, inspiration and a deeper understanding of how community-based organizing can shift the future of food access in Kentucky and beyond.

#### **A LOOK INTO INDOOR CULINARY MUSHROOM PRODUCTION**

Emma Goetzinger, *Ashbourne Farms*

Mushrooms remain in the limelight of the produce market, and rightly so! The world of fungi is incredibly vast, and mushroom products can be an intriguing and valuable addition to any farm enterprise or organic system. Join Emma Goetzinger on a walkthrough of small-scale, indoor mushroom cultivation. She will describe her mushroom journey, including daily tasks, getting products to market and the role of mushrooms within the farm ecosystem. This session is suitable for beginning mushroom growers of all scales.



## SATURDAY SESSION INFORMATION CONTINUED

### SESSIONS | 4:00-5:00 PM

#### URBAN FOOD FORESTS AND THE PERMACULTURE REVOLUTION

Leandro “Nachie” Braga, *Geomancer Permaculture*

Interested in natural landscapes, ecological restoration and community engagement? This session will explore Geomancer Permaculture's projects, in particular the Kilrush Food Forest, a collective public endeavor to remove invasive species and plant and preserve native or naturalized fruit, nut and berry trees; edible and medicinal native plants and pollinator-supporting wildflowers. Nachie Braga will share the permaculture practices he uses to manage this three-acre parcel of public land. He will speak to the local advocacy that made this project possible, including how young farmers and those without access to land can organize themselves effectively to grow food and ecological green spaces in and for local communities.

#### WORTH IT/NOT WORTH IT: VEGETABLE FARMER PANEL

Pavel Ovechkin, *Pavel's Garden*  
Zach Selby, *DreamTime Market Gardens*  
Annie Woods, *Dark Wood Farm*  
Krista Jacobsen (Moderator), *University of KY*

Join this panel of vegetable farmers in a conversation about "worth it" and "not worth it" crops, mistakes and lessons learned and their decision-making about markets (CSAs, farmers market, restaurants). Pavel Ovechkin, Zach Selby and Annie Woods are three farmers using organic practices (one certified organic) who have a wealth of experience to share and insights about the choices (and mistakes!) they have made on their farms. Fellow farmer and sustainable agriculture professor Krista Jacobsen will facilitate a deep dive into these topics and guide the conversation with crowdsourced audience questions.

#### MAKING MOTHER'S DAY BLOOM: HIGH-QUALITY CUT FLOWERS

Alexis Sheffield, *UK Center for Crop Diversification*

Kentucky's flower market is a growing industry, providing great opportunities for market farming and farm diversification. Learn the keys to producing high-quality cut flowers in time for the Mother's Day rush—the biggest flower holiday of the year. This session will cover strategies for season extension, smart variety selection and balancing annual and perennial crops to ensure abundant, market-ready blooms when demand is highest.

**VIEW ALTERNATE SESSION AND SPEAKER INFORMATION AT [OAK-KY.ORG/ALTERNATE-SESSIONS](https://oak-ky.org/alternate-sessions) OR SCAN THE QR CODE:**



If a session must be cancelled, alternate speakers have volunteered to lead a session. Check room signs for any schedule updates.



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## MEET THE SPEAKERS

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### **BEN ABELL**

#### *Rootbound Farm*

Ben Abell is a first-generation farmer who has co-operated Rootbound Farm, a 100% certified organic farm in Kentucky, since 2014 with his wife Bree Pearsal. Rootbound Farm offers organic vegetables, chicken and lamb primarily for direct markets, including community supported agriculture (CSA), partnerships with community groups and local wholesale partners. [rootboundfarm.com](http://rootboundfarm.com)

### **MICHELLE AJAMIAN**

#### *Rural Action*

Michelle Ajamian is the Network Developer at Rural Action's Appalachian Staple Foods Collaborative, facilitating a project to produce more milled chestnut and acorn products with Route 9 Cooperative. She is also the managing partner at Shagbark Seed & Mill in Athens, Ohio. In her personal life, Michelle grows eleven varieties of figs on her farm and is a member of the Craft Millers Guild. [ruralaction.org/our-work/sustainable-agriculture/asfc](http://ruralaction.org/our-work/sustainable-agriculture/asfc)

### **SARAH BARNEY**

#### *Among the Oaks Herb Farm*

Sarah Barney is a full-time owner and operator of Among the Oaks Herb Farm, a specialty farm and farm-to-cup herbal tea company in Eastern Kentucky. She is passionate about helping people connect with the land and plants, and believes that creating place-based, high-quality farm products is one way to facilitate this connection. In addition to farming, Sarah is devoted to building Kentucky's herbalism community, co-organizing a variety of educational and community-building events. [amongtheoaksfarmstead.com](http://amongtheoaksfarmstead.com)

### **MADELINE BELA**

#### *Hill and Hollow Farm*

Madeline Bela was born into a first-generation, certified organic farm family in Metcalfe County, Kentucky. Raised within a community of farmers and eaters, she has long been surrounded by organic food and has flourished amongst like-minded growers. As a lifelong reader, Madeline enjoys working part-time at her local public library, encouraging a love of reading in her community. If she has any spare time, you can find her sewing, baking or bothering her two cats, Maize and Rye. [@madelinebela](https://www.instagram.com/madelinebela)

### **JOHN BELL**

#### *Elmwood Stock Farm*

John Bell farms with his extended family in Scott County, Kentucky, at Elmwood Stock Farm, a sixth-generation family farm invested in the health of their land, animals and community. A certified organic farm, Elmwood cultivates a diversity of crops, including grain, forages and produce, and five species of livestock. John oversees the crop-livestock rotation, striving to build soil while producing healthful food. John has been a dedicated member of OAK since its inception in 2010. [elmwoodstockfarm.com](http://elmwoodstockfarm.com)

### **LEANDRO "NACHIE" BRAGA**

#### *Geomancer Permaculture*

Nachie Braga is an agroecologist, urban designer and the founder of Geomancer Permaculture, a "for purpose" environmental design and advocacy business that organizes communities towards culture change through watershed restoration, food sovereignty and social housing. Geomancer provides a crowdfunding platform for the support of permaculture-based initiatives, advocates for improved environmental policies and works with visionary clients to develop functional and engaging social ecologies. [@geomancerpermaculture](https://www.instagram.com/geomancerpermaculture)

### **DEBBIE BRANN**

#### *River Cottage Farm*

Debbie Brann has farmed for over 25 years. With her husband, Greg, and her son, Brayden, she raises 100 percent grass-fed milk, beef, lamb, wool and pastured poultry and pork on their diversified farm in Adolphus, KY. They direct-market products through farmers markets and deliveries in both Tennessee and Kentucky. [rivercottagefarm.net](http://rivercottagefarm.net)

### **HANNAH BRECKBILL**

#### *Humble Hands Harvest*

Hannah Breckbill is a farmer because she believes in the culture we can build by celebrating the land and building local community. She farms at Humble Hands Harvest in Decorah, Iowa, a worker-owned co-operative farm growing two-plus acres of organic vegetables and seeds, grass-finished sheep and fruit and nut trees. She hosts an almost-annual queer farmer convergence at Humble Hands Harvest, loves supporting musicians by backing them up on the upright bass and in an alternate universe is a Mennonite pastor. [humblehandsharvest.com](http://humblehandsharvest.com)

### **DENNIS CHESSMAN**

#### *Integrated Soil Management, LLC*

Dennis Chessman retired from the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Soil Health Division in 2019. He also served as State Grazing Specialist in Georgia and State Agronomist in California. Prior to the NRCS, he was a soil and crop science professor. Dr. Chessman helps producers and agricultural stakeholders apply scientific principles to improve diverse, small- and large-scale cropping systems. He has an M.S. and Ph.D. in agronomy and is a Certified Organic Crop Advisor.

### **JIM COLEMAN**

#### *Coleman Crest Farm*

Jim Coleman returned to Lexington, KY, in August of 2020 to restore Coleman Crest Farm into a hyper-growth farming enterprise with three operating divisions, including certified organic crop production, agritourism and an incubator for aspiring farmers. On July 19, 2022, Coleman Crest Farm became the first African American-owned, USDA Certified Organic farming operation in the state of Kentucky and the 117th in the nation. [colemancrestfarm.com](http://colemancrestfarm.com)



## MEET THE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

### CHAD CONWAY

*University of Kentucky Extension*

Chad Conway has worked for 25 years with the UK Cooperative Extension Service, serving as the Knott County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent for the past 15 years. He enjoys helping people improve their farming operations in the mountains. During the historic 2022 flood, he experienced personal devastation on his family farm in Perry County while assisting hundreds of families across eastern Kentucky. Chad now focuses on teaching farm families how to be better prepared when disaster strikes.

### HANNAH CRABTREE

*Rough Draft Farm*

Hannah Crabtree has been farming in Kentucky with her husband since 2011, when they met as farming interns. They have operated Rough Draft Farm for 13 years, focusing on diverse vegetables grown with no-till practices. She has two children (Further and Ellis) and also spends her time painting, teaching art, baking bread and being a proud soccer mom. @roughdraftfarmstead

### STEVE DIVER

*UK Horticulture Research Farm*

Steve Diver is the Farm Superintendent at University of Kentucky's Horticulture Research Farm, also known as "South Farm." He has worked as an extension horticulturist, soils consultant and farm manager over the last 40 years. Steve has taught workshops on soil health, compost teas, microbial inoculants, biofertilizers,

composting systems and cover crops in every region of the U.S. and overseas. In 2024, Steve received the Acres U.S.A. Eco-Farmer Achievement Award.  
@steve.diver.52 (Facebook)

### DAVIDA FLOWERS

*Majestic Greens Farm & Davida's Flowers*

Davida Flowers is a mother of three, wife, part-time crafter and part-time grower. In 2016, she, her husband and their one-year-old daughter moved to Kentucky with big hopes and even bigger dreams for living in prosperity off of the land. After some study, bootstrapping and apprenticeship, their home officially became Majestic Greens Farm in 2018. Since 2020, Davida has grown cut flowers not only for arrangements, but a variety of goods ranging from artistic to edible, cosmetic to medicinal.  
majesticgreensfarm.com

### MAKEDA FREEMAN-WOODS

*Change Today, Change Tomorrow*

Makeda Freeman-Woods is a chef, educator and community leader dedicated to advancing food justice and healing through nourishment. As part of Change Today, Change Tomorrow, she develops and leads food education initiatives that connect healthy, culturally relevant meals with communities most impacted by inequities. With a background in culinary arts, social enterprise and community organizing, Makeda brings a unique perspective on how food can drive resilience, dignity and transformation. [chefmakeda.com](http://chefmakeda.com)



**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture

**ASK NRCS**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help with conservation assistance in soil health, biodiversity, and livestock practices to help meet the USDA National Organic Program.

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



## MEET THE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

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### EMMA GOETZINGER

#### *Ashbourne Farms*

Emma Goetzinger is a nature-loving farmer of herbs, vegetables and mushrooms. She grew up in central Kentucky and has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Centre College. She has a passion for quality whole foods, community-focused food systems, biodynamic agriculture, cooking and cultivating awareness. Her interest in mushrooms emerged from her enjoyment of backpacking and her time living in the Bavarian Alps, and her favorite thing about mushrooms is their uniqueness and resilience. [ashbournefarms.com](http://ashbournefarms.com)

### NATE HAAN

#### *University of Kentucky, Entomology*

Nate Haan is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky. His lab group researches the ecology, conservation and management of insects, especially those beneficial to agriculture. Several of Nate's current research projects focus on the ecology of dung beetles, working to understand how they move between habitats, how they respond to veterinary pharmaceuticals and how producers can leverage their manure-burying activities in pasture systems. [natehaan.com](http://natehaan.com)

### GREG HALICH

#### *University Kentucky Extension & Grass-Finished Cattle Farmer*

Greg Halich is a Forage Systems Economist at the University of Kentucky, where he works with livestock farmers to improve profitability. His focus areas include biological farming techniques that reduce or eliminate the need for commercial fertilizer inputs, grass-finished beef production, bale grazing and extended season grazing systems. He lives and farms in southern Woodford County, where he produces grass-finished beef and tests out new ideas with his own herd.

### FATIMA JACKSON

#### *Action Jackson Farms*

Fatima and Justin Jackson farm an 80-acre livestock meat goat operation in Salvisa, Kentucky, where they nurture two young children. They love raising goats and maximizing herd performance through sustainable practices and good genetics. They currently own a herd of about 100 meat goats, including registered myotonic meat goats and commercial myotonic crosses. Their goal is to continue to grow and improve their farm and mentor other farmers in sustainable livestock production. [actionjacksonfarms.com](http://actionjacksonfarms.com)

### KRISTA JACOBSEN

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

Krista Jacobsen is an Associate Professor in the Horticulture Dept. at the University of Kentucky (UK). She serves as Director of the Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems Program and Faculty

Chair of The Food Connection, UK's local food systems institute. Krista and her family have a small organic farm raising produce, Christmas trees and laying hens in Anderson County. [@ukysustainableag](https://twitter.com/ukysustainableag)

### LAUREN KALLMEYER

#### *Resilient Roots*

Lauren Kallmeyer is a clinical herbalist based in Berea, Kentucky. She holds an M.S. in Therapeutic Herbalism with a focus on reproductive health and herbal product design. A member of the American Herbalists Guild and United Plant Savers, she serves her community through free clinics and as an organizer of the annual Goldenrod Gathering herb festival. Through her business, Resilient Roots, she offers educational workshops, medicinal herb products and clinical consultations. [resilientrootsky.com](http://resilientrootsky.com)

### DEREK LAWSON

#### *Foxhollow Farm*

Derek Lawson serves as Head Herdsman and Farm Manager at Foxhollow Farm in Crestwood, Kentucky. He leads a rotational grazing program for more than 400 head of beef cattle and 100 hair sheep. Derek has a B.A. and M.A. in agriculture from Murray State University and over 20 years of rotational grazing experience. He and his wife, Jessica, live on the farm with their four children, where they also run a horse program. [foxhollow.com](http://foxhollow.com)

### SUSANA LEIN

#### *Salamander Springs Farm*

Susana Lein has regeneratively farmed without tillage since 2002 at Salamander Springs Farm. Her farm is known for its flavorful, nutrient-dense vegetables, fruits, cornmeal, popcorn and dry beans. For over 25 years, Susana has developed and maintained locally-adapted landrace seed, starting with the native American staple crops of traditional milpa agriculture, which she learned during eight years working with Mayan farmers in Latin America in the 1990's. [salamandersprings.wixsite.com/farm/about](http://salamandersprings.wixsite.com/farm/about)

### JESSICA LOPEZ

#### *Lopez Land Farm*

Jessica Lopez is a farmer with Lopez Land Farm, a first-generation, family-owned farm in Frankfort, KY, specializing in sustainable living, hard work and handmade crafts created with love and care. Her family grows produce, raises livestock and offers hands-on education, farm tours and more. [lopezlandfarm.com](http://lopezlandfarm.com)

### ANNA LUCIO

#### *Kentucky Department of Agriculture*

Anna Lucio, with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), has an affinity for the forest and land. Born into a multi-generational farming family, she grew up working on a dairy, crop and tobacco farm. Anna attended the University of Kentucky, earning a degree in Agricultural Economics. She brings her extensive knowledge and passion to her role of managing the Kentucky American Ginseng Program, while giving voice



## MEET THE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

to the vested and diverse perspectives of forest farming interests.

[kyagr.com/marketing/ginseng-grower-program.html](http://kyagr.com/marketing/ginseng-grower-program.html)

### ANGELA MAGNEY

#### *Magney Legacy Ridge Farm*

Angela Magney is a first-generation organic farmer, military wife and mother of three. She operates Magney Legacy Ridge Farm, a two-plus acre market farm on 50 acres in Princeton, Kentucky. Over 13 years, she has grown from the ground up—learning, experimenting and thriving with a dedicated team that delivers fresh vegetables and eggs 40 weeks of the year, using high tunnels for year-round, sustainable production.

[@magneylegacyridge](https://twitter.com/magneylegacyridge)

### AMY MILLER

#### *Route 9 Cooperative*

Amy C. Miller is the general manager of Route 9 Cooperative, a collective of chestnut farmers, in Ohio and owner of a diversified fruit and nut farm in eastern Ohio. She has a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from The Ohio State University, specializing in nut and fruit diseases, and facilitates many kinds of chestnut research on the farm. She is committed to specialty crop research and continuing the family orchard legacy while focusing on long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

[route9cooperative.com](http://route9cooperative.com)

### JOSEPH MONROE

#### *Valley Spirit Farm*

Joseph Monroe lives and farms diversified vegetables and grass-fed cattle on 118 acres in Henry County, where he and his wife, Abbie Scott-Monroe, steward the land with respect and integrate community throughout their work. Valley Spirit Farm incorporates organic and conservation practices and uses adaptive grazing techniques. They were among the first farms to join the local Our Home Place Meat cooperative. They also sell Louisville farmers markets.

[@valleyspiritfarm](https://twitter.com/valleyspiritfarm)

### RYANN MONTEIRO

#### *Organic Farmers Association*

Ryann Monteiro leads the Organic Career Network (OCN), a national initiative of the Organic Farmers Association that connects students and emerging professionals with pathways into organic agriculture. She partners with farmers, educators and organizations to expand internships, strengthen workforce pipelines and ensure farmer voices guide priorities. With a background in public health, food systems and Indigenous issues, Ryann is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at Northwestern University.

[organicfarmersassociation.org](http://organicfarmersassociation.org)

### EMILY OAKLEY

#### *Three Springs Farm*

Emily Oakley co-owns and operates Three Springs Farm, a diversified, certified-organic vegetable farm in eastern

Oklahoma. With her partner Mike, she cultivates over 40 different crops and more than 150 individual varieties on three acres of land for a 350-member CSA program. Their goal is to maintain a two-person operation that demonstrates the viability of small-scale farming. Emily served as an Organic Producer Representative to the USDA's National Organic Standards Board from 2016 to 2021.

[@threespringsfarmers](https://twitter.com/threespringsfarmers)

### RICHARD OLSON

#### *Berea Urban Farm*

Richard Olson is a Ph.D. agronomist who founded and taught in the Sustainability and Environmental Studies Program at Berea College. He was a co-founder of the community nonprofit Sustainable Berea and has served for 10 years as the Director of the Berea Urban Farm. His areas of experience include forest ecology, ecological design, ecological restoration, small-scale farming, horse logging and beekeeping.

[sustainableberea.org](http://sustainableberea.org)

### PAVEL OVECHKIN

#### *Pavel's Garden*

Pavel Ovechkin is a vegetable farmer in Oldham County, KY, and the grower behind Pavel's Garden. He cultivates three acres with a focus on soil health, crop rotation and season extension to produce high-quality vegetables year-round. Serving the Louisville and Cincinnati areas through his CSA and farmers markets, Pavel is known for his practical approach and consistently well-grown produce.

[pavelsgarden.com](https://twitter.com/pavelsgarden)



## MEET THE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

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### JEFF POPPEN

*Long Hungry Creek Farm & The Barefoot Farmer*

Jeff Poppen's lectures stem from his livelihood: forty years with cattle, hay and a five-acre market garden/CSA using biodynamic and old-time farming principles. He learned from farming elders, and now feels that it's his turn to share. Experiences with the humid conditions, erratic weather and worn-out soils of the Southeast have taught him the value of soil tilth, biology and rock dusts, among other things. @barefootfarmer

### DR. TAMARA HORN POTTER

*Kentucky State University & Hacker's Honey*

Dr. Tamara Horn Potter learned beekeeping from her grandfather in 1997 at his farm in Fayette County. In addition to working in the queen bee industry in Hawai'i, she has kept hives on surface mine sites, university campuses and her back porch in Lexington. She has published three books related to honey bees, and has been a partner with her husband in Hacker's Honey since 2017. They have kept up to seven outyard apiaries, but mercifully, have downsized their operation to four.

### KINSHASTA REED

*Change Today, Change Tomorrow*

Kinshasta Reed, BSN, RN, CD, is a dedicated advocate for urban agriculture and food justice, committed to creating fair and sustainable food systems within urban communities. A registered nurse with deep lived experience in navigating the challenges of food insecurity and health disparities, Kinshasta blends her clinical expertise with a personal understanding of the barriers many face in accessing fresh, nutritious and culturally relevant food. @kinshasta.reed (Facebook)

### TAYLOR RYAN

*Change Today, Change Tomorrow*

Taylor Ryan is a Black feminist, mother and founder and Executive Director of the Louisville-based nonprofit Change Today Change Tomorrow, eradicating barriers that plague the Black community and other marginalized populations in food justice, community engagement and public health. Taylor received two master's degrees from Marshall University and a bachelor's from the University of Louisville. In her work, she places Black and brown people in positions to feel activated to give back to the community. @changetodaychangetomorrow

### ZACH SELBY

*DreamTime Market Gardens*

Zach Selby is a Lexington native, chef and farmer. Growing up interested in eating delicious foods, he decided to attend culinary school and pursued a career as a chef. He lived and cooked in different areas of the country, exposing him to regional ingredients and cuisines. He was always inspired by farms and farmers, and in 2020, Zach started DreamTime Market Gardens.

He began transitioning his career path and home garden. 2026 is his sixth season farming professionally. @dreamtime\_market\_gardens\_

### ALEXIS SHEFFIELD

*UK Center for Crop Diversification*

Alexis Sheffield is an Extension Specialist for Horticulture and Co-Director of the Center for Crop Diversification at the University of Kentucky. She focuses on small farm production of specialty crops and farm marketing. She has extensive experience in cut flower and high tunnel production through her own farm and floral business, Wild Roots Farm. She cultivates native and annual varieties using sustainable growing practices for specialty markets, weddings and a flower CSA. @ccduky

### STOREY SLONE

*Grow Appalachia*

Storey Slone is a farmer and Small Farm Production Advisor with Grow Appalachia, living and working in eastern Kentucky. She not only provides technical assistance to growers across the region but is a part of the farming community she serves. Drawing on her own experience in small-scale production, she supports efforts to strengthen and diversify agriculture and forest farming in Appalachia. growappalachia.berea.edu

### MAC STONE

*Elmwood Stock Farm*

Mac Stone was Executive Director of Marketing for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, where he administered the Kentucky Proud Program and established the USDA-NOP (National Organic Program) certification accreditation. He was the Certifier Representative on the National Organic Standards Board and is now Chair Emeritus. Mac recently retired from Kentucky State University after 20 years of managing their research farm. Now, he focuses on farming organic foods with his family on Elmwood Stock Farm. @elmwoodstockfarm

### RAE STROBEL

*Barr Farms*

Rae Strobel is co-owner of Barr Farms, a seventh-generation family farm in Rhodelia, KY, growing pastured chicken, 100% grassfed beef and organic vegetables for CSA, farmers markets and restaurants. Rae is passionate about growing high-quality food in a way that benefits the soil, food justice, community-building and resilience in the local food system. Her favorite job on the farm is helping to connect people with the land and how their food is raised. @barrfarmsky

### T'VON TERRY

*Change Today, Change Tomorrow & 5<sup>th</sup> Element Farms*

T'Von Terry is a young adult West-End resident and native of Louisville, Kentucky. He has practiced cultivating the land for about five years. T'Von is the Farmers Market Director for Change Today, Change



## MEET THE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Tomorrow and a land steward for 5th Element Farm. He writes music and is a young community activist hoping to help move the next generation back to the land to cultivate it and ourselves. @shaunooworld

### CHRIS TEUTSCH

*University of Kentucky*

Dr. Chris Teutsch grew up on a small crop and livestock farm in northeastern Ohio. He completed a bachelor's and master's degree at The Ohio State University and a Ph.D at the University of Kentucky in forage management. Dr. Teutsch currently serves as a Forage Extension Specialist at the University of Kentucky's Research and Education Center at Princeton. Over the years, Dr. Teutsch has received various awards for his service to the forage and livestock industry. @ukmastergrazer

### ROBIN VERNON

*Hill & Hollow Farm & OAK*

Robin Vernon has spent the past three decades developing and managing her certified organic farm in

Metcalfe County and raising three incredible humans. Growing food for Hill and Hollow Farm's CSA community has allowed Robin to garner community support for sustainable farming practices. She raises vegetables, herbs, cut flowers, dye plants and heritage breed sheep, rotationally grazing the pastures. Robin co-founded the Greater Cumberland Fibershed to raise awareness about healthy local fiber systems. @hillandhollowfamily

### ANNIE WOODS

*Dark Wood Farm & OAK*

Annie Woods worked as an ecologist and farmhand in the Pacific Northwest before moving back home to Northern Kentucky in 2014 to start Dark Wood Farm, a small-scale vegetable operation focused on joyful, vibrant food grown using sound ecological principles. Along with a small team that includes her partner, Annie grows seasonal fresh produce for a Community Supported Agriculture program, restaurants, food access initiatives and her family, including her three-year-old okra-loving son. darkwoodfarmstead.com



## CONFERENCE GRATITUDE

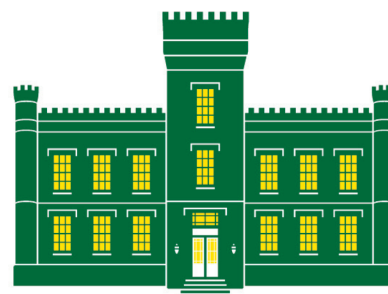
### MEALS FROM KENTUCKY FARMS

We are grateful for the good food and the teams who provide lunch during the conference. Enjoy a menu of delicious options from Farm to Fork. Thank you for keeping everyone nourished and for your commitment to sourcing from Kentucky farms and celebrating local abundance.



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OAK Conference scholarships are supported by the Cherokee Historical State Resort Park Friends, Kentucky SARE State Model Program and University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.