

Summary & Resources - Magney Legacy Ridge Farm May 2026 OAK Farmer Field Day



Reducing Risk, Expanding Markets and Building Community

Event Summary

Growing a supportive community is as integral to Angela Magney's farming as growing healthy food. A recent OAK Field Day at [Magney Legacy Ridge Farm](#) allowed participants to experience both - from the local farmers who showed up to share the success of Magney's collective farm-marketing model to the demonstration of food safety practices from field to cooler.

Building Community Through Food

After relocating from Georgia to Princeton, KY, Angela Magney began searching for local farmers and markets to feed her growing family with fresh, local food. At the time, her county cooperative extension agent explained that, since it was the fall, the growing season was over for the year. Accustomed to a year-round local food market and farms using high tunnels to extend the season, Angela dug in, leaning into her year-round production experience and expanding her operation into today's two acres of vegetable production, an online farmers market and community supported agriculture (CSA) program. Her CSA shares provide food from her farm and seven other family farms to people across the region. Through local delivery in 11 counties of western Kentucky, Angela is building a community of customers eager to support the expanding farmer collective.

Growing Produce - Tips and Tools

As season extension was an obvious goal for the farm, Angela installed a high tunnel in the first year and has added three more with cost-share help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Lined with landscape fabric (to suppress weeds, moderate soil temperature and conserve moisture), the tunnels house spring crops like lettuce, peas (supported by trellis netting) and herbs in transition to summer crops, like tomatoes interplanted with basil (to repel pests). A bed of cilantro lines a sidewall, which the farmers will harvest for market until it "bolts," providing blooms for pollinators and beneficial insects that control pests.

The landscape fabric has holes burned at proper plant spacing and is moved from one tunnel to another each season, as the farmers rotate plant families to reduce pests and disease and to diversify the soil nutrient availability. Moving the fabric also meets [organic regulations](#) requiring that non-synthetic mulches be removed at the end of the growing or harvest season.

The Magney farm also uses a smaller caterpillar tunnel, which protects cucumbers and icebox watermelons, and a greenhouse to get a “head start” on healthy transplants. Although the entire farm is 50 acres, the Magneys have intentionally placed the farm’s infrastructure adjacent to their house for easy access and reduced farmer stress.

Irrigation

Using wobblers in most of the field crops, Angela has found that increased wind poses a significant challenge for irrigation efficiency, necessitating after-dark watering and timers set to pre-sunrise hours. Angela worked with Dakota Moore of the Kentucky Horticulture Council to secure cost-share for a Sumi Soaker irrigation system, improving her germination efficiency and early lettuce crop’s water needs by reducing the water flow to where it was needed. Similarly, Angela uses drip tape for longer-term crops under landscape fabric in the field and high tunnels.

Reducing Risk with Food Safety

Working to keep her growing community healthy, Angela has taken considerable steps to ensure the produce she sells is safe, like harvesting into dedicated totes (that don’t touch the soil) and sanitizing and storing tools between uses. The farm has an improved packshed with a walk-in cooler, stainless steel workspaces with a three-basin sink, a handwashing sink and clear food safety protocol signage. Working with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) [Produce Safety](#) team, Angela recently completed a voluntary inspection for compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Angela and KDA’s Ryan Mairs demonstrated the process for testing and sanitizing produce-wash water and explained the importance of proper washing to reduce the risk of spreading pathogens.

KDA and the University of Kentucky provide free produce safety training for Kentucky farmers to meet FSMA requirements and to help farms reduce risks through informed harvest/post-harvest practices and safe produce for all. Kentucky farmers are encouraged to complete the online [Produce Farm Inventory Survey](#) as the first step in this process.

Gratitude

OAK is grateful to Angela Magney and the crew at Magney Legacy Ridge Farm for their time and efforts for this Field Day, the Kentucky Horticulture Council for co-creation and hosting, our partners at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for sharing produce safety resources and expertise and to all the farmers and ag professionals who took time out of their busy spring schedule to share in the learning and conversation.

Related Resource Links:

OAK Resources:

- [OAK Farmer Field Days](#) - Hosted on working farms, these events highlight organic practices in crop and livestock systems and best practices in production, marketing, business and resilience on Kentucky farms. The 2026 Field Day calendar offers events from May to October!
- [Organic Production Assistance Program](#) - Organic production consultation services provide dedicated technical assistance to Kentucky farmers who are currently using or interested in adopting or expanding organic practices.
- [OAK Transition Program](#) - Organic transition specialists assist farmers interested in transitioning to USDA-certified organic production. Organic specialists are available for one-on-one consultations, providing a personal level of service and technical assistance on-site, at the farmer's convenience.
- [On-Farm Conservation](#) - This program provides outreach and education for farm-based conservation on owned or leased land. Eligible participants are Kentucky farmers and landowners with production or subsistence farms, urban or rural growing spaces, community-run projects or privately managed lands. OAK's Conservation Outreach Coordinator, Mad Marchal, is available to connect Kentuckians to local NRCS field staff, to reduce barriers to entry into NRCS programs and to offer logistical support and conservation education. Contact Mad at mad@oak-ky.org or (502) 509-9839 or [schedule a free call](#).
- [Soil Health Project](#) - OAK and partners are working with farmers and buyers in Kentucky to promote the adoption of organic farming practices and to develop markets for commodities grown and raised in ways that improve whole-farm resilience, soil health and ecosystem services. This project is part of the USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers initiative and runs through August 2028.
- [OAK Conference](#) - OAK's annual conference includes a growing audience of hundreds of Kentuckians and neighbors active in the region's food systems: farmers, researchers, nonprofit professionals, federal and state agency partners, technical service providers and conscious consumers working collectively to build a resilient local food system for all. Collaboration among these diverse voices, grounded in the connection to Kentucky farms, soil and communities, provides a rich foundation for learning and growth. **Mark your calendar to join us in Cave City, KY, on January 29-30, 2027, and keep an eye out for more details in fall 2026.**
- [Kentucky Farm Share Coalition](#) - KYFSC creates market opportunities for Kentucky farms growing for community supported agriculture (CSA), a weekly box subscription of the farm's harvest. KYFSC partners with farms and employers to facilitate workplace CSA programs that incentivize employees to purchase CSA. Learn more today!
- [Join OAK today!](#) - The organic and sustainable farming network in Kentucky is growing. Together, we are creating a thriving regional food and farming network. Your support and participation help provide resources to farmers, inspire community members and enhance organics across KY!
- [Sign up for OAK newsletters](#) - For farmers and consumers, OAK offers a variety of regular communications to stay connected to Kentucky food and farming news, research and events.

Kentucky Horticulture Council Resources

- [Small Scale On-Farm Water Management Grant](#) - **Dakota Moore highlighted this with Angela's Sumi Soaker** ([Wetterfrosch Farm Tools](#) or [Modern Grower](#)).

- [GAP Cost-Share Program](#) - GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) is a voluntary third-party audit program that verifies the audited farm is producing, packaging, handling and storing fruits and vegetables using safe practices to minimize food safety hazards. Several retail and wholesale buyers require produce growers to have third-party audit verification to ensure growers are conforming to the best agricultural practices for food production.
- [Post-Harvest Handling Factsheets](#) (English and Spanish)
- [How To Build A Low-Cost Handwashing Station \(University of Minnesota Extension\)](#) - **build the wooden handwashing station that Dakota had on display.**
- [Request irrigation water testing and training](#) - The Kentucky Horticulture Council can provide free on-farm 1-on-1 training for how to test your ag water sources for harmful microorganisms. KHC will teach you how to take samples and can deliver these first samples to your nearest lab. KHC will discuss risk factors for contamination that apply to your operation and produce as well as some potential risk mitigation measures.
- [Cut Flower Grower Resources](#)

Food Safety Resources

- [Kentucky Department of Agriculture | Produce Safety:](#)
 - [Produce Farm Inventory Survey](#) - required from all Kentucky produce farms.
 - [Determination](#) of a farm's status for Exemption/Coverage under the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule.
 - No-cost On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR) upon request; educational farm visits to provide food safety education and resources - call (502) 573-0282.
- University of Kentucky:
 - Food Safety Plan/GAP Certification technical assistance for KY farmers: [Cultivate Kentucky | The Food Connection](#).
 - [Produce Food Safety Resources](#) from the Center for Crop Diversification.
- [Resources from 2023 OAK Virtual Workshop with The Food Connection at UK: Developing a Food Safety Plan.](#)

Crop Production Resources:

- [General Production Resources | Center for Crop Diversification](#)
- [Organic Agriculture | Center for Crop Diversification](#)
- [Crop Rotation on Organic Farms | SARE](#)
- [Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\) Production Manual](#) of the Organic Farming Unit at the University of Kentucky
- [High Tunnel Production Resources](#) - University of Kentucky Extension
- [Crops Under Cover](#) - the most recent research-backed and farmer-advised row cover innovations; University of Kentucky.
- Organic Commercial Spray Schedule for Field Production (University of Kentucky series)
 - [Beans, Broccoli, Cauliflower & Other Cole Crops](#), [Cucumber](#), [Melons](#)
 - [Peppers, Pumpkin, Summer Squash & Zucchini](#)
 - [Tomatoes, Winter Squash](#)
- Disease and Insect Control Program for Home-Grown Fruit in Kentucky, including Organic Alternatives [ID-21](#)

- **Deer Fencing - [Youtube clip from OAK2022 virtual conference: Deer Defense Grid \(~12:00\)](#)**
- Suppliers:
 - [Farm/Garden Supplies](#) - Deerfield Supplies, LLC, Elkton, KY
 - [Organic Farm And Garden Supplies](#) - Fresh Start Growers Supply, Louisville, KY
 - [Walk-Behind Tractors and Hand Tools](#) - Earth Tools, Owenton KY
 - [Farm/Garden Supplies](#) - Martin's Produce, Liberty KY
 - [Farm/Garden Supplies](#) - Shrock's Garden/Farm Supplies, Crab Orchard, KY
 - [High Tunnels and Growing Supplies](#) - Grow Appalachia, Berea KY

Funding /Technical Assistance Resources and Service Providers

- Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development ([KCARD](#))
 - Free [business planning](#) for Kentucky farms and agribusinesses
 - [Funding assistance and grant information](#) (Kentucky and beyond)
 - Sign up under "GET UPDATES" on [KCARD website](#) to receive e-newsletters
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Read this first! [A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers](#)
 - USDA [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)-Kentucky](#)
 - [How to Start a Farm: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)
 - Find your county's office in [West Kentucky](#) or [East Kentucky](#)
 - [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)-Kentucky](#)
- [Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund \(KADF\)](#) - Apply by October 30 for [2026 programs](#)
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)
 - [Organic Marketing Program](#)
- Grants:
 - [SOAR loan](#) - southern and eastern KY
 - [KSU Small-Scale Farm Grant](#)
 - [County Agricultural Incentives Program \(CAIP\)](#) grant: county-specific! Ask your County Cooperative Extension Agent or Conservation District; more information [here](#)
 - [Small Scale On-Farm Water Management](#) - Kentucky Horticulture Council

Value-added Product Resources

- KDA's [Kentucky Farmers' Market Manual and Resource Guide](#)
- Kentucky [Homebased Processing and Microprocessing | UK Family & Consumer Sciences Extension](#)
- [Commercial Food and Cosmetic Manufacturing in Kentucky: A Starter Guide](#)

Soil Health Resources:

- Soul Fire Farm's [How Alive Is My Soil?](#)
- [Cover Crops for Sustainable Crop Production](#) - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- [Managing Cover Crops Profitably](#) and [Building Soils for Better Crops](#) - SARE
- [Cornell Soil Health Manual](#) - Cornell University's College of Ag and Life Sciences
- [Building Soil Health in the South](#) - Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

USDA Resources

- Whether you're looking to access capital or disaster assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) or address natural resource concerns on your land with assistance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a great place to start is [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov).
 - Complete an AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, prior to your first meeting with FSA and NRCS.
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - [Kentucky Programs](#), including insurance and loan options
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - [EQIP Funding for Organic Farmers](#)
 - [EQIP Homepage](#)
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - [CSP Homepage](#)
 - ["Is CSP Right For Me?"](#)
 - Organic Management Plan (823)
 - [2024 Organic Farmers Association 823 Factsheet](#)
- [USDA National Organic Program](#)
- ["Get Started! A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers"](#)