



KENTUCKY FARMER RESOURCES

What's inside the guide

Select resources available for Kentucky farmers. For a full list of programs, services and funding available in Kentucky visit www.oak-ky.org/farming-resources

Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)

The Organic Association of Kentucky (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. Growing ecological resilience, economic viability and socially just futures for Kentucky farmers through educational, technical and market resources. We believe that organic agriculture improves environmental resilience and conservation, nurtures human and community health and is a powerful driver of regional prosperity.

OAK's programs are open to everyone. Scholarships are available. Membership is available and not required. Visit the OAK website to learn more about programs, services and events including Farmer Field Days, Annual Organic Farming Conference, Organic Transition Specialists, Workplace and Community CSA Program, Community Education, Global Farm Metric Farm Sustainability Tool.

Sign up for OAK's monthly e-newsletter for resources and events.
Contact OAK at info@oak-ky.org and 502-219-7378.
Learn more at www.oak-ky.org



PRODUCTION & FOOD SAFETY RESOURCES

Cultivate Kentucky Partnership

Access Food Safety specialists and develop your Farm Food Safety Plan, prepare for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification. Free technical assistance.

<https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/content/technical-assistance-farmers>

Kentucky County Cooperative Extension Offices Kentucky State University & University of Kentucky

For production, soil testing and water testing.

KSU Directory: https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-ac/school-of-ace/co-op/extension_personnel.php

UK Directory: <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/county>

Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC)

KHC is a resource for specialty crop growers, offering Third Party GAP Audit cost-share, Small Fruit Cost-share, School Garden Grants, Farm to School Programming, protected growing programming, and supports grower - buyer meet ups, professional development, research and a variety of services throughout the Commonwealth. <https://kyhortcouncil.org/>

Grow Appalachia

Addresses food insecurity throughout central Appalachia through home and community garden initiatives, foodways, farming, and hunger relief programming. As a Strategic Initiative of Berea College, Grow Appalachia partners with organizations, communities, and families in Appalachia to create healthy, resilient, and economically viable food systems. <https://growappalachia.berea.edu/>

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

A searchable database of project reports and many publications available for free download or sale including Crop Rotation on Organic Farms: A Planning Manual; Manage Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies; Managing Cover Crops Profitably; Building Soils for Better Crops; Manage Weeds on Your Farm. Research and education grants to advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound. <https://www.sare.org/sare-outreach-publications/>

UK Center for Crop Diversification

CCD offers price reports, food safety trainings, crop profiles, CSA production manual, production webinars, record keeping tools, and more. <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/>



USDA LOCAL SERVICE CENTERS

Visit local USDA Service Center to access offices for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Register and get your farm number at the FSA office. FSA offers financial assistance to new and beginning farmers. There are several FSA Farm Loan programs available to qualifying new farmers that are looking to buy and operate a farm. The Microloan Program that can be used for startup costs, farming expenses, and for the purchase of essential tools. FSA provides programs and services that support the economic stability of American farmers, ranchers and rural landowners. FSA may be able to provide certain loan servicing benefits to direct loan borrowers whose accounts are distressed or delinquent due to circumstances beyond their control. The Loan Compass Guidebook is available in English and Spanish: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-loan-servicing/index> and more <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/index>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS in Kentucky offers financial and technical assistance through cost share programs for land management practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) provides farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future. These programs can help with things like grazing and nutrient management, fencing, stock water systems, pasture planting, and seasonal high tunnels. EQIP: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives> and all programs at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Kentucky One Stop Business Portal

From starting your business plan to registering your business with the Commonwealth, this portal is a "one stop shop" with tools necessary to assist you in registering and operating your business in Kentucky.

<https://onestop.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Kentucky Center for Rural and Agricultural Development (KCARD)

Facilitates agricultural and rural business development and provides educational opportunities, technical assistance and business support services to new and existing agribusinesses of any size and cooperatives. Support for business planning, grant writing and assistance with local food market access and coordination. <https://www.kcard.info/start-business>

MARKET & MARKETING RESOURCES

Community Farm Alliance (CFA)

Works to organize and encourage cooperation among rural and urban citizens through leadership development and grassroots democratic processes to ensure an essential, prosperous place for family-scale agriculture in our economies and communities. Programs and services include Kentucky Double Dollars, Farmers Market Support Program, Podcast, Fresh RX for Moms, Farm Bill Advocacy and more. Learn more at <https://cfaky.org/>

Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Visit the KDA website and access information and resources on state licensing, regulations, promotional assistance, Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) farm survey and more. KDA's Organic Program operates as an organic certifier in the state and provides documents for Kentucky's organic certification agency, including certification procedures, forms and fee schedules. KDA also offer programs to assist agricultural businesses including Kentucky Proud Promotional Grants and Buy Local Program. <https://www.kyagr.com/>

FARM FUNDING RESOURCES

Kentucky Agriculture Finance Corporation (KAFC)

KAFC addresses the unique financing needs of agriculture in the Commonwealth. The mission of the KAFC Board is to strengthen Kentucky agriculture by providing access to low-interest loan programs through joint partnerships with local lending institutions. KAFC assists beginning farmers, farm families, and agribusinesses in obtaining the necessary capital to establish, maintain, or expand their agricultural operation. The KAFC meets monthly to review and approve loan applications and offers low interest loans under the following categories: Ag Infrastructure Loan Program, Ag Processing Loan Program, Beginning Farmer Loan Program, Large Animal Vet and Diversification through Entrepreneurship. <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/Kentucky-Ag-Finance-Corporation.html>

Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund (KADF)

The KADF is administered by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB). The mission of the board is to invest these funds in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products. This includes finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities that will benefit Kentucky farms now and in the future. The KADB meets the third Friday of the month to review and take action on applications for county and state Agricultural Development Funds. Also offered: County Agriculture Investment Program (CAIP) is a 50/50 cost share with 11 investment areas to increase net farm income, add value to products, and diversify operations. On-Farm Energy cost share.

<https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/Kentucky-Agricultural-Development-Fund-Applicants.html>

Kentucky State University - Small Scale Farm Grant

The Kentucky State University (KYSU) Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families (CSFF) works to develop resources to provide assistance to small-scale farms. This program helps farmers who want to improve their farming operations, improve the marketability of their products with value-added enterprise, and who want to further their farming and agricultural knowledge through educational trainings. <https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-acs/school-of-ace/co-op/small-scale-farm-grant-program.php>

RESEARCH RESOURCES

ATTRA -- Organic Farming Resources from the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

A wealth of detailed, readable, and useful information for growers: organic certification; organic production of vegetables, fruits, flowers and livestock; organic pest management; organic fertility management; organic marketing.

eOrganic Community of Practice at eXtension.org

Organic agriculture material created by a nationwide network of extension personnel at Land Grant Universities including articles, factsheets, videos, news, FAQs and 'Ask an Expert' service. <https://eorganic.org/> <https://eorganic.org/>

The Organic Center (TOC)

Provides a clearing house of peer-reviewed science on verifiable benefits of organic farming and products. The Organic Center summarizes the latest research into distilled bites so you can make informed choices. <https://www.organic-center.org/>

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

OFRF sponsors research and education to foster improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. View the searchable database of project reports: <https://ofrf.org/funded/funded.html>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Provides research and education grants to advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities and a searchable database of project reports and many publications available for free download or sale. <https://www.sare.org/publications/>

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. We invest in and support initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice. <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa>