

KVGA Newsletter

September 2021

Vol. 2. No. 3



Greetings from a foggy Saturday morning in western Pulaski County. My wishes are that everyone reading this is having a successful growing season and have been able to sell products at a profitable price throughout the season.

This has definitely been a trial in persistence type of year. I've reached out to several growers throughout Kentucky and a few in neighboring states and the feedback I'm hearing is that folks nearer to bigger population centers are having an average to above average year. Smaller markets seem to be struggling compared to last year. In my opinion, there are several factors that are responsible for this year's sales being sporadic. It may be that people are eating out a little more than last year. Also, I'm hearing that canning supplies are getting scarce again. Another factor is we are becoming a population spoiled by having everything ready to cook or even ready to eat. Fewer people are preparing and cooking their own meals. Word is also that food banks have been overrun with produce this year and at times had no room to receive any product. You know it is weird times when they cannot even give produce away.

In this issue:

- Review of KVGA Member Benefits
- Veg Grower Sales Tax Exemption Update
- Notes from Dr. Rachel Rudolph
- Don't Wait for Spring to Clean
- Food Safety Q&A: HACCP
- Survey: Controlled Environment Production
- Growin' with Dr. Owen
- Meet Delia Scott (UK Extension Associate)
- On-Farm Energy Upgrades
- Greenhouse Cucumber Research
- Get Counted! USDA 2022 Ag Census
- Call for Speakers: 2022 Fruit & Veg Conference
- USDA CFAP 2 Pandemic Assistance Update
- CSA Facebook Group and Fall CSA Promo Event
- Crop Insurance Training for Growers
- Upcoming Events

Most farmers are getting better at production and producing more than ever before. This can lead to a glut of certain items being sold at very cheap prices and in some instances at certain auctions produce is practically being given away. Everyone really needs to form a plan for what you can grow and sell profitably without having to cut into someone else's marketplace for all of us to stay in business. Markets need to be spread out for prices to remain at a level to be profitable. Consider this when you start planning for next year's crops. There is an old saying "If you fail to prepare, then you better prepare to fail". I hope that I'm not sounding like everything is gloom and doom, I'm just trying to be honest in what I am seeing happen.

Best of luck for the rest of this growing season. And we're hoping if everything falls into place to see all of you in January at the Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Bowling Green.

Joel Wilson

President,
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

KVGA Officers

President

Joel Wilson

Wilson's Cedar Point Farm (Nancy)

606-305-8762

cedarpointfarm@aol.com

Vice President

Shubin Saha

Kentucky Fresh Harvest (Stanford)

S.Saha@kyfreshharvest.com

Secretary

Nathan Truesdell

Circle T Farms (Maysville)

606-584-1401

nhtrue01@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ron McMaine

McMaine's Riverhaven Farm (Salvisa)

859-533-3768

rmcmaine@gmail.com

KVGA Board Members

Zeldon Angel, Angel Farms (Winchester)

Jonathan Berkshire, Berkshire Farms (Glencoe)

Sandi Deutsch, Deutsch Farm (Taylorsville)

Nathan Howell, Need More Acres (Scottsville)

Annette Meyer-Heisdorffer, Daviess Co Extension (Owensboro)

Susan Miller, Miller's Farm (Stanford)

David Neville, Capstone Produce Auction (Campbellsburg)

Babette Overman (Overmans Bluegrass Fruits and Vegetables (Lancaster)

Brad Reid, Reid's Orchard (Owensboro)

Jacob Sharpe, Homegrown Direct (Georgetown)

Ben Wilson, Dragonfly Hollow Farm (Richmond)

KVGA Advisors

Ryan Burnette, Kentucky Department of Ag (Frankfort)

Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Kentucky Horticulture Council (Lexington)

Dr. Rachel Rudolph, UK Department of Horticulture (Lexington)

Dr. John Strang, Ret. UK Department of Horticulture (Lexington)

Dr. Shawn Wright, UK Department of Horticulture (Jackson)

Review of KVGA Member Benefits

Many KVGA members join during the annual KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference and don't realize the other benefits associated with membership in our organization. We've highlighted several below and encourage you to find out more if you aren't taking advantage of them all.

- ◇ An extensive network of Kentucky growers with experience and enthusiasm for growing produce
- ◇ **\$2,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment** no-cost policy with American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL). Members receive a letter and response card in the mail.
- ◇ Free subscription to *American Vegetable Grower* magazine for one year
- ◇ Early notification of **KVGA-sponsored educational events like** grower-buyer meet-ups
- ◇ Authorization to use **24-c local needs pesticide registrations**
- ◇ Exclusive member content online <http://kyvga.org/>
- ◇ Engagement on Facebook: <http://kyvga.org/>
- ◇ Free postings on the KHC Trading Post electronic bulletin board (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/trading-post/>)

And,

finally,

of course,

an AWESOME quarterly newsletter!

Enjoy this issue — there is a lot of great content.

If you want to make suggestions about member benefits or have ideas for future newsletter content or events, please feel free to contact any KVGA officer or Board Member.

Veg Grower Sales Tax Exemption

Growers, are you taking full advantage of the farmer sales tax exemption in Kentucky? Certain inputs like chemicals, machinery, fuel, seed, fertilizer, and other inputs for production use are customarily exempt from sales tax. If you have been taking advantage of this exemption, please note that a change is coming.

Effective **January 1, 2022**, KRS 139.481 requires farmers have an Agriculture Exemption Number for use on Forms 51A158 and 51A159 to make sales tax exempt purchases.

The application form can be found here: <https://www.salestaxhandbook.com/pdf/certificates/ky-51a158.pdf> or at the Department of Revenue website <https://www.revenue.ky.gov/> (navigate to *Find A Form*, then using the *Tax Type* dropdown menu, select *Sales and Use Tax*. Then scroll through the list to the Farm Exemption Certificate (51A158) or On-Farm Facilities Certificate of Exemption for Materials, Machinery, and Equipment (51A159).

Growers can submit applications by email: DOR.Webresponsesalestax@ky.gov or mail: Division of Sales and Use Tax; Department of Revenue; P.O. Box 181; Frankfort, KY 40602-0181

After approval of the application, growers will get an Agriculture Exemption Number by mail. Until that Ag Exemption Number has been assigned, growers can continue to use a driver's license number as an identifier. After July 1, 2022, a driver's license number cannot substitute for the farm exemption certificate .

If you have any questions about the exemption or the application form, please contact the KY Department of Revenue Division of Sales and Use Tax at 502-564-5170, option 1.



SEE WHAT GOOD YIELDS[®]

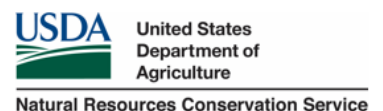


Thank You,

Kentucky Horticulture

Research Initiative

Corporate Sponsors



Veg Notes from Dr. Rudolph

Hi, Kentucky Vegetable Growers!

As I write this, it is pouring rain outside. I hope you all are able to get the necessary work done despite the uncooperative weather. We have had to revise our plans a few different times here in Lexington to work around the rain. Fall is just around the corner and with it there will be some amazing fall vegetables available across the state — pumpkins, winter squash, cole crops, greens, and sweet potatoes to name a few. My lab is working on several fall crops in our research trials.



Here is an update of several of the projects that we are currently working on.

Kale and lettuce cultivar trials in both high tunnels and open field. Although we started this project in the spring, the kale is proved to be extremely productive and hardy even in the hot summer weather. It looks like we will have kale in the fall as well. The high tunnel trials have wrapped up, but the field kale is still going. The results of this trial will be published in the next UK Fruit and Vegetable Research Report, which will be available in early January. Stay tuned!

Multi-state winter squash cultivar trial. In collaboration with several other states in the Southeast region, we have been evaluating 10 different varieties of *Cucurbita maxima*. This crop was planted in on June 7 and it looks like they are about ready to harvest.

Mustard cover crop cultivar trial. Several growers have indicated interest in using mustards as a cover crop. Mustards are a member of the cole crop family and should not be used in rotation with other cole crops on the same site in the same year. However, they may be useful for growers interested in biofumigation. For more information on biofumigation, here is a new extension publication to check out: <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/biofumigation.pdf>

The purpose of this trial is to evaluate biomass production and best planting date for fall-grown mustard cover crops. The amount of biomass produced will affect the biofumigant potential as well as the change in soil organic matter after the crop is terminated and incorporated. We are also observing any insect damage or disease pressure. The trial will also be repeated in the spring to see how the mustard crop performance compares to the fall.



Six different mustard cover crops are being evaluated at the UK Horticulture Research Farm. The seeding dates were August 5, August 18, and August 30. (Photo credit: Amanda Winters)

Evaluation of root-knot nematode resistant tomato rootstock in high tunnels. Tomato is not normally considered a fall crop, but many high tunnel growers can keep them going into September. We are wrapping the second of two on-farm trials this week. The first trial was completed in July. Although there are several species of root-knot nematode, resistance is for only one species, *Meloidogyne incognita* (aka Southern root-knot nematode) and it can cause significant yield loss in tomato and even plant death. Resistant rootstocks may be a valuable part of an integrated strategy for management of these plant parasites. Another aspect to this project is to conduct a soil survey across the state. If you suspect you have root-knot nematode, we would love to collect a soil sample at your farm and determine if you have root-knot nematode, the population level of root-knot nematode, and the



An example of an ungrafted plant that is susceptible to root-knot nematode. The plants start to wilt and die due to damage to the root system.

Continued on pg. 5

species. We have currently identified Southern root-knot nematode in Boone, Boyle, Hart, Knox, and Metcalfe counties. An extension publication on root-knot nematode in vegetable production systems is currently being prepared and should be published in the next month or so. Thank you to our grower collaborators and the county agents for making this work possible!

One last thing: the fall season is a great time to collect soil samples and submit them. Sample collection should happen after you are done with a field or high tunnel for the season. Submitting samples in fall to the soil lab will give you plenty of time to adjust soil pH if needed and plan for the spring.

For growers interested in implementing cover crops this season, there are several recent publications available. Although it is geared towards high tunnels, much of the information is still relevant to open field.

Covers Under Cover: Managing Cover Crops in High Tunnels

<https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu.ccd/files/CoversUnderCover1.pdf>

Cool-season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast

https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu.ccd/files/cool-season_covercrops.pdf

Warm-season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast

https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu.ccd/files/warm-season_covercrops.pdf

I wish you all the best of luck this fall.

Happy growing,

Rachel Rudolph

UK Extension Vegetable Specialist



*Severely galled
Tomato roots from
Southern root-knot
nematode infection
and feeding.*

Don't Wait for Spring to Clean!

Cleaning your equipment of dust, mud, and plant material can be a lot of work, especially making sure you get the cracks and crevices clean. However, don't put off cleaning tractors, carts, and other implements before storage. Taking care of this task immediately after harvest is a good management practice. What's the big deal, you might ask?

Cleaning equipment — including hand tools — thoroughly helps prevent the spread of destructive pests including insects, pathogens, and weed seeds in soil and plant material carried on the equipment. This is especially important for equipment and machinery moving between farms and also prevents spread across areas of your own operation. Please keep this in mind particularly if you have rented or borrowed equipment.

A good cleaning will help you detect problems early. This means you can fix problems sooner and prevent further problems from developing. Making a repair is usually much less expensive than replacing an entire piece of equipment. Also, keeping your equipment clean will help prevent rust and corrosion, extending the lifespan and protecting your investment. And, think how nice it will be in the spring to get the season started with clean equipment!

A few tips: Be safe and wear eye protection, gloves, long pants, closed toed shoes, etc... Clean equipment and machinery from front to back in small vertical sections. If pressure washing, be sure you're at least 100 feet from surface and ground water sources to prevent contamination. Also, make sure to pressure wash over an unpaved surface to better manage runoff. Rinse well and don't allow cleaning products to dry on surfaces.

HACCP: What is it and do you need it?



Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a critical component of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food is also known as the Preventive Controls Rule. Although part of FSMA, this rule is different from the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) and focuses on a risk-based systematic approach for food manufacturers to identify, evaluate and control food safety hazards.

Growers selling fresh produce directly to consumers or to other buyers like schools, restaurants or wholesale are not required to have a HACCP plan. Food manufacturers — seafood and meat processing facilities, for example — are required to write HACCP plans. Produce growers who are processing juice or cider are required to have a HACCP plan identifying and planning for process, sanitation, allergen, and supply chain controls as well as developing a recall plan. In addition to ensuring compliance with FSMA, HACCP plans are globally accepted as the most effective way for food manufacturers to prevent recalls, outbreaks, and associated financial losses.

If you have any questions at all about being prepared for FSMA, contact Mark Reed (KDA Produce Safety Program Manager) at mark.reed@ky.gov or 502-782-7809. If you have questions about your manufactured food products, contact Paul Vijayakumar (UK's Food Systems Innovation Center Extension Specialist) at Paul.V@uky.edu.

If you haven't yet completed the Kentucky Produce Farm Survey, it is still available online or you can request a hard copy from the Office of Agricultural Marketing, Kentucky Department of Agriculture-Plant Division, Produce Safety Program, 107 Corporate Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601.

Controlled Environments Grower Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete a quick grower survey for the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and the University of KY (UK) to assess the needs of floriculture/food crops, greenhouse, and controlled environment growers across the state.

Controlled environment production can be under glass or plastic, using various technologies and systems to intensively manage crop growing conditions.

Your responses will help direct efforts in supporting the state vegetable industry. It should take less than 10 minutes and all individual responses will be kept confidential.

Two easy ways to get to the survey:

Click the hyperlink below and go directly to the survey

[https://
www.surveymonkey.co
m/r/KY2021CEASurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KY2021CEASurvey)

Scan the QR
code at right
with your
phone to go to
the survey



Growin' with Dr. Owen: Electronic Grower Resources

Hello, growers! First, I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Garrett Owen, Ph.D. and I'm the greenhouse and controlled-environment horticulture specialist in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Kentucky. My appointment is split among Extension, research and teaching with a focus on production of containerized soilless culture floriculture and greenhouse food crops under heated greenhouse conditions. The goal of this news column is to share educational and/or applied research resources for those of you who propagate vegetables from seed to produce field transplants and/or produce containerized greenhouse vegetables and leafy greens. In short, if you're growing vegetables in soilless media or hydroponically, then this column is for you!

Vegetables are most often started as transplants that are propagated under greenhouse conditions and destined to be transplanted into either fields or greenhouses. During transplant or crop production, growers may encounter abiotic and/or biotic challenges which may lead to consulting with fellow producers, county Extension agents, Extension Associates, diagnosticians, and Specialists. In addition to consulting and working with Extension personnel, you may find yourself conducting an internet search. We must be cautious of unfamiliar internet sources and content. However, there are two electronic resources that greenhouse vegetable transplant and plant growers should be aware of including e-GRO (Electronic Grower Resources Online; www.e-gro.org) and Fert, Dirt, and Squirt – Nutritional Monitoring of Greenhouse Crops (www.fertdirtsquirt.org).

e-GRO is a collaborative group of greenhouse and controlled-environment specialists representing 14 cooperating universities and extension affiliations in the United States. Throughout the year, the e-GRO team disseminates a weekly email bulletin (Alerts) which provides notification of current issues and challenges pertaining to greenhouse ornamental and edible crop production nutrition, water, plant growth regulators, light, temperature, pests, and pathogens. The format of these Alerts includes the production challenge, applicable corrective procedures, and photos. In addition, the team provides Blogs, Research Report, Webinars, Grower University, and mobile web-based apps such as FertCalc, AlkCalc, Nutritional Monitoring, and more. The best part about e-GRO is that is FREE! I would encourage you all to stop by and check it out. You can subscribe to the free newsletter and if you don't like it, you can always unsubscribe.

Finally, nutritional disorders are among the many challenges greenhouse growers encounter during crop production. These disorders often develop when substrate pH or soluble salts [referred to as electrical conductivity (EC)] drifts above or below optimal ranges for plant uptake. To assist greenhouse growers in addressing nutritional disorders, e-GRO launched a Nutritional Monitoring of Greenhouse Crops website, fertdirtsquirt.org, led by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.



Example of an Edible e-GRO Alert. Photo by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.

Nutritional Monitoring Series
Eggplant, transplants
(Solanum melongena)

Eggplant transplants require low fertility of 100 to 150 ppm N. Plants prefer a pH within the range of 5.8 to 6.5. This range prevents low substrate pH induced iron (Fe) and manganese (Mn) toxicities which occurs if the pH drifts lower than 5.5. Substrate pH values above 6.5 can also inhibit Fe availability and result in the upper foliage developing interveinal chlorosis (yellowing).

Target Nutrition Parameters

pH Category III, IV:
5.8 to 6.5

Fertility Category:
Low
100 to 150 ppm N

EC Category A:
1:2 Extraction:
0.4 to 0.6 mS/cm

SME:
0.9 to 1.3 mS/cm

PourThru:
1.3 to 2.0 mS/cm

nutritional disorders, e-GRO launched a Nutritional Monitoring of Greenhouse Crops website, fertdirtsquirt.org, led by Dr. W. Garrett Owen. The website serves as an information and education center for growers, students, and horticultural professionals and is accessible by computer, tablet, or mobile device. Regardless of how the website is accessed, growers will find 47 crop-specific nutritional factsheets ranging from annual bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, potted crops, vegetable transplants, herbs, and hemp. These crop-specific nutritional factsheets provide the optimal crop-specific fertility requirements, and pH and EC values reported by the 1:2 Dilution, Saturated Media Extraction (SME), and PourThru methods, fertility management, corrective procedures for

Continued on pg. 8

Example of a nutritional factsheet that provides optimal crop-specific fertility requirements, pH, and EC values reported by the 1:2 Dilution, Saturated Media Extraction (SME), and PourThru methods, fertility management, corrective procedures for high and low pH and EC, and nutritional disorder photos. Pictured here is the eggplant transplant nutritional factsheet. Photo by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.

high and low pH and EC, nutritional disorder photos, and when available leaf tissue nutrient values. In addition to factsheets, instructional 'How To' videos and guides for various sampling methods, procedures, and container sizes were created. Finally, an online database containing optimal crop-specific fertility requirements, and pH and EC values of over 580 greenhouse crops is available. Like e-GRO, all these resources are available for free and ready to be utilized.

As a continuous effort to provide growers with timely information, please check both websites for updates and new postings of Alerts, crop-specific nutritional factsheets, videos, and more!

Garrett Owen

UK Extension Floriculture, Greenhouse Food Crops, and Controlled Environments Professor



Meet Delia Scott: another great Extension resource!

Delia Scott is the new Extension Associate for Floriculture, Greenhouse and Controlled Environments in the UK Department of Horticulture. A Kentucky native, she most recently worked in the Department of Entomology at UK, studying alternative pest control strategies. Her background includes sustainable and organic horticultural production, community programming, educational program development, and local food systems. Delia will design, develop and deliver extension programs, as well as consult with growers on floral and greenhouse vegetable crop production, perform research and demonstrations, and address greenhouse-related issues.

Delia holds a B.S. in Horticulture and an M.S. in Crop Science, both from UK. She can be reached at delia.scott@uky.edu or by phone at 859-257-8605. This position is funded by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

Energy Upgrade Programs

Are you thinking about or currently planning for an energy upgrade at your operation? Maybe considering something like:

Low pressure irrigation systems or conversion from sprinkler to drip irrigation?

Energy Star equipment, LED or HID lights and fixtures?

Insulation?

Programmable thermostats and controllers?

Solar powered watering system for production or equipment, structures or other solar supplies to offset ag related energy expenses?

Be sure to check out the KY Ag Development Fund **On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Program** that provides incentives for growers to increase the energy efficiency of existing equipment or facilities. Program covers 50% of the actual cost of a qualified energy saving item, up to \$10,000. Applicants may also be reimbursed an additional \$150 for a third-party energy audit.

Be sure to read the Program Guidelines including eligibility requirements and limitations: https://agpolicy.ky.gov/energy/Documents/energy_guidelines.pdf. (Link to online application: https://agpolicy.ky.gov/energy/Documents/energy_application.docx)

The next deadline to apply is December 17. Martin Williams at the KOAP (KY Office of Ag Policy) is the program manager and can be reached at 502-782-1736 or martin.williams@ky.gov.

Cucumber research could help farmers extend seasons and diversify

Rotating greenhouse crops or making use of greenhouses while crops are growing in the field can give farmers more options and more income. The University of Kentucky Controlled Environment Horticulture Research Unit, the Owen Lab, is in the midst of a two-year study to evaluate cucumber varieties for greenhouse production.

“When you look at all the research that’s been conducted in the U.S., hydroponic cucumbers have gained little attention, though there are some researchers looking at cucumbers for high tunnel production,” said Garrett Owen, UK assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture and unit director. “Greenhouse food crop research has been more focused on tomato production, leafy greens and herbs. Our mission is to generate Kentucky-specific data for growers who are interested in growing cucumbers or want to diversify their crops.”

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment doctoral student Paul Cockson is conducting this research on English and snack or mini cucumbers for his dissertation. He is screening cucumber varieties and cultivars for production in Kentucky’s temperate zone—assessing yield data, growth metrics and grading the fruit according to Canadian/U.S. grade standards.

Cucumber production cycles are three to four months, so greenhouse growers can get from three to four turns per year. The cucumbers in Cockson’s spring study took about 14 weeks from seed sow to final harvest.



Cucumbers grow in Paul Cockson's study on cucumber varieties for greenhouse production. Photo by Garrett Owen.

“We’re looking at season extension, so we’re going to be doing a spring and a fall crop, looking at truncated production when producers are out in the field (with other crops), to see if they could use some of their existing infrastructure for a quick-turn crop like cucumbers,” he said.

Owen said they chose cucumbers, because many Kentucky greenhouse growers have predominantly grown tomatoes. Cucumbers can adapt to the current systems they already have installed in greenhouses.

Greenhouse vegetable producers must manage the environment and cultural practices to prevent and mitigate any disease or infestations.

“Our No. 1 disease that we’ve experienced so far is powdery mildew, but with good cultural practices and management of the environment, we’ve only had to treat or spray for powdery mildew in a few instances,” Owen said.

By starting clean and staying clean, the researchers have avoided disease and pest issues, but if they do encounter problems, they will use conventional control methods as well as consider biological options for disease and pest control.

The team have seen some interesting trends for fruit quality among the different types they’re assessing.

“We’re seeing some of the fruit elongate or lengthen or expand differently, and that’s something odd,” Cockson said. “Normally you’re going to assume that on the vine, the cucumber is going to lengthen and fill out at a consistent rate to produce a very consistent product. What we’re seeing is that some of these cultivars are producing lesser-grade fruits, and so we’ll be comparing instances of fruit morphological changes.”

They’ve also seen differences in the time it takes a vine to grow.

“Some are growing slower, so that will help inform growers. If a grower is looking for an aggressively growing cultivar, and they want to get in and out quickly, we can recommend one type versus another,” Cockson said.

Under the conditions in the UK greenhouse, he said the study cucumbers are performing extremely well.

“In my opinion, this is the perfect fit for Kentuckians, someone with that truncated production or season extension, because these cultivars are performing so well and growing so rapidly and producing so much,” he said.

Carol Spence, UK Ag Communications

(original article: <https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/cucumber-research-could-help-farmers-extend-seasons-and-diversify>)

The USDA Ag Census: We Need Your Participation

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of US farms and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing vegetables (and other food crops) should be counted if at least \$1,000 has been, or normally would have been, sold annually. The Ag Census is only taken once every five years to record land use and ownership, operator characteristics, and production practices as well as income and expenditures.

It might not sound too important, but for produce growers, the Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, and your opportunity. One thing to keep in mind if you think it isn't important to complete the census: this evaluation influences the amount of funding that comes to Kentucky for certain programs. That is just one example of how critical it is that growers in Kentucky complete the Census.

Currently, NASS (the National Agricultural Statistics Service) is working on mailing lists to update their database to be sure growers are contacted to complete the Census next year.

Growers who want to be counted can sign up on their own through the NASS website. We know producers raising horticulture items are a group that is underrepresented and want to ask you to be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to impact the future of Kentucky horticulture by making sure your voice is heard through the data.

Existing and new farms can sign up on the NASS page "Make Sure I'm Counted" at www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html. You will receive a classification survey later asking for general information about your farm, primarily size of operation and type of crops produced.

FAQ's are available at www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/FAQ/2017/index.php.

We are lucky to have a local statistician — David Knopf — in Louisville, who is very interested in Kentucky's Produce industry. In fact, you have probably seen him at conferences and trade shows. He is a great resource and available to answer questions by email (David.Knopf@usda.gov) or phone (502-907-3218).



2022 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference Call for Speakers

The 2022 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals for educational presentations. We welcome ideas for mini-sessions (20 minutes total; 15 minutes speaking and 5 minutes for Q&A) or longer presentations (30 or 60 minutes including Q&A). We are especially interested in presentations from local growers.

Session topics should be highly focused for produce growers in Kentucky. Topics can address production methods, research results, business management strategies, and best practices. Specific content requests from recent Conference surveys include: variety performance, crop rotation, processing, post-harvest handling, growing in high tunnels, urban farming, strategies for marketing, and soil health.

This event each January historically has an attendance of 500 participants including growers, exhibitors, speakers, organizational representatives, and governmental agencies, with more than 70 educational sessions, grower roundtables, a trade show, and a Kentucky wine tasting. The full agenda with registration details will be published in late October on the Conference website (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2022-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>).

We encourage you to consider submitting a proposal to share your knowledge, passion, and innovation with others or suggest speakers you'd like to hear! Submit proposals [online](#) or by email info@kyhortcouncil.org.

Deadline to submit proposals is September 15, 2021. Presentation date and time will be confirmed with speakers by October 15, 2021.



USDA Updates Pandemic Assistance for Specialty Crop Growers

USDA Extends Deadline for CFAP 2 to October 12

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has updated the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) for contract producers of eligible specialty crops and other sales-based commodities. CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set a Tuesday, October 12 deadline for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2.

More than 230 fruit, vegetable, horticulture, and tree nuts are eligible for CFAP 2 along with honey and maple syrup. For more information, connect with USDA online: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/cfap2/commodities> or visit your local USDA Service Center (call first to see what their office hours are currently!).



Locally-Grown CSAs in Kentucky Facebook Group

and

Find Your Fall CSA Promotional Event

During the week of September 13-17th, 2021, more than 30 Kentucky farms — including several KVGA members — will be highlighted on social media in a newly developed *Locally-Grown CSAs in Kentucky* Facebook group page. Joining the group and event is free and a great way to engage with other growers and potential consumers. Several events will be held during the week including a nutritionist answering questions, a conversation with a local chef, and a general Q&A session.

For more information about the event visit: <https://www.kyproud.com/csa/>

To join the Locally-Grown CSAs in Kentucky Facebook group page visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/csainkentucky>

The *Find Your Fall CSA* promotion is hosted by the KY Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Proud, Bluegrass Farm to Table, Edible Kentucky, Kentucky Horticulture Council, and the Organic Association of KY.

If you have any questions about the event or want to be highlighted in a future CSA promotional event, please feel free to contact Katie Harvey, OAK's CSA program coordinator at katie@oak-ky.org.



Crop Insurance Training for Specialty Crop Growers

Do you know about crop insurance options available to you as a produce grower? Many Kentucky growers do not take advantage of the many programs that can help you reduce your operation's risk. Over the next year, join the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) for a monthly Lunch & Learn webinar covering different crop insurance topics. Webinars will be the second Tuesday of each month, with some special content available between webinars.

2021

October 12	What a Grower Needs Before Going to an Agent
November 9	MPCI (Multi-Peril Crop Insurance)
December 14	WFRP (Whole Farm Revenue Protection)

2022

January 11	Q&A with Insurance Agents
February 8	Record Keeping
March 8	Farm Service Agencies (FSA) Resources
April 12	Grower Panel
May 10	A Practical Example: Step by Step with One Farm
June 14	Q&A with an Insurance Agent
July 12	Refresher and Webinar Recaps
August 9	Online Resources for Growers
September 13	Program Wrap Up and Q&A with an Insurance Agent

Register for the webinar series online:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvf-iuqDgtG9PpErwxskqi8kZ3fVIRaULI>.

Once you register, you will receive an email confirmation about joining the meetings and can add the details to your electronic calendar. After registration, you can attend any of the occurrences. Don't worry if you can't attend a session, the webinars will be recorded and available on the Kentucky Horticulture Council's YouTube channel.

Do you have any questions about crop insurance? Submit them to Dakota Moore (Dakota@kyhortcouncil.org) to be covered during the webinars.

Please note that webinar topics may change to accommodate program or deadline changes.

Upcoming Industry Events

9/9 — Practical Tools for a Climate-Resilient Farm: Cover Crops, Biochar, and On-Farm Water Management at Barr Farms (OAK Event)

9/9 — LAND Forum in Jackson (RCARS)

9/14 — LAND Forum in Shelbyville (Gallrein's)

9/28 — FSMA Produce Safety Alliance Training (online)

9/28 — Crop Insurance Basics Webinar

October — National Farm to School Month

10/12 — What a Grower Needs Crop Insurance Webinar

10/17-10/20 — KY Women in Ag Conference (Lexington)

10/19 — Cultivating a Successful CSA (OAK Event)

10/26—5 Questions to Ask Crop Insurance Agents

11/9 — Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Webinar

11/16 — Webinar on NRCS Programs (online)

12/14 — Whole Farm Revenue Protection Webinar

12/28 — Vegetable, Fruit & Nut Crop Insurance Webinar

Do you have a question about production, marketing or another veggie-

related topic? Send in your question and you may see it answered in a future newsletter!



Info@KyVGA.org

Save-the-Date

2022 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Jan. 2 — Pre-Conference Events

Jan. 3-4 — Educational Sessions & Trade Show

<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2022-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>

