

KVGA Newsletter



December 2021

Vol. 2. No. 4

Seasons Greetings to you and your family,

This time of year, we reflect on the year nearing an end and focus on the upcoming growing season while embracing family and friends. This year specifically that embrace is much needed as we still contend with a world-wide pandemic, a supply chain in noticeable disarray, and unknowns of the upcoming growing season.

The Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association (KVGA) is a family, experiencing similar and also different pros and cons of the life of farming for human consumption. We aren't alone in farming; beginners can hear from experienced growers and in turn experienced growers can try something new - all because of KVGA.

KVGA is in final planning stages of the upcoming annual growers conference which it hosts with other organizations. The primary focus is to educate and share the latest information available to us all. Beyond that, we meet lifelong acquaintances at this conference, some even become confidants to bounce an idea off of, make a suggestion to or simply have a conversation with. The Conference is packed full of information from other growers and presenters who have already been there and done that. This eliminates that reinvention of the wheel for an idea and allows you to question that person on *what if this?* or *how about that?* The great thing is that presenter has probably

already had a similar thought or your thought could be the next light bulb lighting up to go - *I'll give that a shot.* Everyone should come to the conference and each of us should invite someone else, you won't regret being there.

Consider an additional option for yourself. You could be the next changemaker for KY vegetable growers. Being a member of the KVGA Board of Directors, you can bring your unique perspective to the table. We are a collective bunch of men and women of different levels of experience and managing different sized operations. Before checking that box though please be aware that we are in search of active, participating members, who will join us for meetings. This newsletter has a list of all current board members, please reach out to one of us with any of your questions. We never intend to speak on a whim. We speak from experience and each of our own different perspectives. We work to grow this organization and help to coordinate opportunities for all growers across the Commonwealth.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a blessed new year. Get your registration in now for the Growers Conference and check the box if you would like to have a voice at the board member's table. I look forward to meeting you all face to face at the conference. So, rest up, enjoy friends and family, and plan for the year ahead.

Nathan H Truesdell

Secretary, Kentucky Vegetable Growers
Maysville, KY

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2022 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Sponsors



Dear Fruit and Vegetable Growers:

The 2022 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference has moved and will be held in-person at the Holiday Inn Sloan Convention Center, 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, KY 42103, on Monday and Tuesday, January 3 and 4, 2022. You may pre-register online at <https://2022-ky-fruit-veg-conference.eventbrite.com>. The event will begin with a pre-conference Farmers Market Short Course, Labor Ready Workshop, and a Crop Insurance Workshop followed by Vegetable and Tree and Small Fruit Round Table Discussions.

Conference sessions include Direct Marketing, Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Production, Organic Production, Protected Ag Production, Marketing and Business Management, Controlled Environment Production, a Grape and Wine Short Course and more new educational tracks. We also have a number of excellent out-of-state speakers this year and our trade show will feature more than 60 exhibitors.

We have Exhibitor/Grower and Conference Luncheons planned featuring Kentucky Proud products. A Trading Post bulletin board will be available to sell used equipment, so bring along any descriptions containing your name, phone number, and the equipment price.

PLEASE make your room reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-HOLIDAY using the block code **VGA**. Our block of rooms will be held until **December 17, 2021**. After this, room prices will be higher. Be sure to let the hotel know that you will be staying for the Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference to obtain our special room rate for a single or double of \$99.95. If you find that the block of rooms at our conference rate is full on or before December 17, please call Jade Mosgrove (270-393-8669) only to increase the number of rooms that we have blocked. The room cost includes an evening manager's reception with drinks and two breakfast vouchers. We encourage growers to stay at the Holiday Inn adjacent to the Conference Center and participate in the Conference luncheons to help cover meeting overhead expenses.

The \$50 meeting pre-registration fee or \$75 registration on site includes a year's membership in the KVGA, KSHS, or OAK and entrance into the Grape & Wine Short Course and the trade show. Pre-registration means your tickets and name tag will be ready for you at the registration table when you arrive at the meeting. Additional luncheon tickets may not be available at the registration desk. Name badges will be required to enter meeting rooms and the trade show. Pre-registration forms or online registrations need to be in our hands by Friday, December 17, 2021. After this date you may continue to register online or on-site at the conference at the \$75 rate. Phone registration will not be accepted.

NOTE: we strongly urge you to pre-register as on-site registration will be \$75.

If you would like to serve on the KVGA or KSHS boards of directors or would like to nominate another member, please designate this at registration.

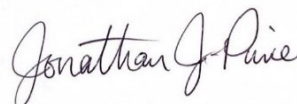
If circumstances are such that you cannot attend the event, meeting content will be available online after the Conference. If you would like online access or to simply remain a member of the KVGA, KSHS, or OAK, please complete online registration or return the registration form with a check to KHC, PO Box 21736, Lexington, KY 40522-1736 to continue your association membership. We are committed to hosting a safe and enjoyable Conference, so please check the Conference website (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2022-ky-fruit-vegetable-conference/>) for additional information about meeting precautions and any meeting updates.

Sincerely,



Joel Wilson, President

KY Vegetable Growers Association



Jonathan Price, President

KY State Horticultural Society



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

All Times are Central Standard Time

Sunday, January 2 — Pre-Conference Sessions

3:00–9:00 p.m.	Registration	Front Foyer
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Farmers Market Short Course	Meeting Room 1&2
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Crop Insurance Workshop	Ballroom A
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Labor Ready Workshop	Ballroom B
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Vegetable Round Table Discussion	Meeting Room 5
7:30–8:30 p.m.	Tree & Small Fruit Round Table Discussion	Meeting Room 5
3:00–9:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-up	Foyers, Ballroom D

Monday, January 3 — Conference Sessions

8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:45 a.m.	KSHS-KVGA General Session Ballrooms A & B
10:30 a.m.	Break
12:10 p.m.	Exhibitor/Grower Luncheon Ballroom C
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Direct Marketing, Ballroom A Tree Fruit Production, Ballroom B Vegetable Production for Experienced Growers, Ballroom C Controlled Environment Production, Meeting Rms 1&2 Bringing the Farm to School, Meeting Rm 5
2:30 p.m.	Break
5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Close
5:20 p.m.	Kentucky Strawberry Association Meeting, Ballroom C
5:30 p.m.	Kentucky Farm to School Network Kick-off Meeting, Meeting Rm 5
6:00 p.m.	AgVets Meet & Greet, Hotel Bar Area

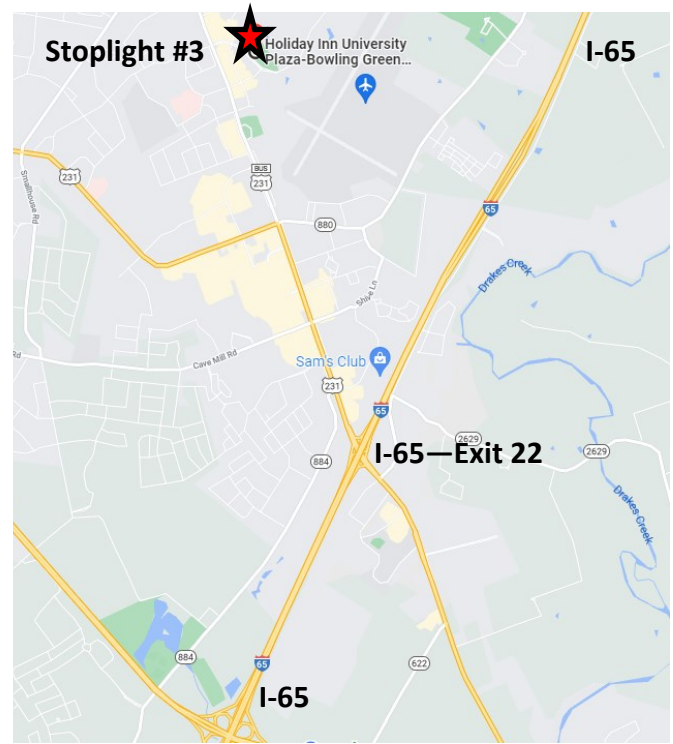
Tuesday, January 4 — Conference Sessions

8:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions Organic Production, Ballroom A Tree Fruit Production for Experienced Growers, Ballroom B Beginning Vegetable Production, Ballroom C Agriculture Water, Meeting Rms 1&2 Beginning Strawberry Production, Meeting Rms 3&4 Business Management, Meeting Room 5 Grape & Wine Production, Salon B
10:00 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m.	Tuesday Luncheon Ballroom C
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Protected Ag Production, Ballroom A MarketReady Training, Ballroom B Small Fruit Production, Ballroom C Adding Value to Products, Meeting Rooms 1&2 Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Reports, Meeting Rooms 3&4 Produce Safety, Meeting Room 5 Grape & Wine Production, Salon B
2:30 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Closes

Directions to Sloan Convention Center at the Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green, KY

From Interstate 65: Take Exit 22 and turn north toward the city of Bowling Green. Travel approximately two miles and turn right at the stoplight with #3 indicator.

From Nashville International Airport: Take Interstate 40 West and follow the signs to Interstate 65 North. Take Exit 22 and turn north toward the city of Bowling Green. Travel approximately two miles and turn right at the stoplight with #3 indicator.



KY Horticulture Research Initiative (KHRI) Update

Reviewing the last two years for KHRI funding is encouraging. More than 64% of the total money in the fund has been raised in those two years. There is now enough money available (nearly \$12,000) to start helping fund research that will directly impact Kentucky farmers. Both KVGA and the Kentucky Horticulture Society (KSHS) have agreed to promote KHRI by matching contributions from farmers' market organizations at a total of \$0.50 for every \$1.00 contributed. KHRI is grateful for the significant support from the corporate sponsors shown below and from the Kentucky Horticulture Council.

There is still work to be done to determine how funding can best be used to help the horticulture industry in Kentucky, and contributions are appreciated. We look forward to your opinion and help in this endeavor. Feel free to contact me by email or phone (see page 2) or discuss with me at the Conference in January.

Ron McMaine
Treasurer,
Kentucky Vegetable Growers
Salvisa, Kentucky



**Thank You,
Kentucky Horticulture
Research Initiative
Corporate Sponsors**



Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers



The 2022-2023 UK Extension publication, *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) is now available!

This comprehensive publication contains a wealth of information on all aspects of commercial vegetable production and pest management, from variety selection to marketing, and everything in between.

Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2022-2023

Now available online:

ID-36: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id36/id36.pdf>

Print copies are available at county Extension offices.

New Vegetable Disease Publications

The University of Kentucky Department of Plant Pathology has generated a number of new extension publications for vegetable growers. These factsheets focus on a variety of diseases that are common problems for both large and small-scale vegetable producers. Each publication provides additional information on disease symptoms, causal agents, disease development, and management options. All extension publications from the Department of Plant Pathology, including fact sheets and spray guides, can be found at <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>.

New Publications Include:

Bacterial Spot of Pepper and Tomato (PPFS-VG-17)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-17.pdf>

Botrytis Blight (PPFS-GEN-19)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-19.pdf>

Bacterial Wilt of Cucurbits (PPFS-VG-11)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-11.pdf>

Cucurbit Downy Mildew in Kentucky (PPFS-VG-27)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-27.pdf>

Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato: Disease Management for Commercial Growers (PPFS-VG-25)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-25.pdf>

Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato: Disease Management for Residential Growers (PPFS-VG-26)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-26.pdf>

Powdery Mildew (PPFS-GEN-02)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-02.pdf>

Root-knot Nematode in Vegetable Cropping Systems (PPFS-VG-28/CCD-FS-22)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-28.pdf>



Dr. Nicole Gauthier
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Specialty Crop Growers Crop Insurance Training

Have you been joining Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) for the monthly Lunch & Learn webinar covering different crop insurance topics? Webinars are held the second Tuesday of each month, with special content posted between webinars. Many Kentucky growers do not take advantage of the many programs that can help reduce operational risk. Watch the videos below to learn more about crop insurance options available to produce growers!

Crop Insurance Video Library

Crop Insurance Basics (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXubmaBvKjk>)

What a Grower Needs Before Going to an Agent (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qE6Rpb2pMOs>)

5 Questions You should Ask an Insurance Agent (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxEDNOW6WVw>)

MPCI (Multi-Peril Crop Insurance) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oupWqoHQig>)

Upcoming Webinars

2021

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

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

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. Webinars are being recorded and posted on the Kentucky Horticulture Council's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/KentuckyHorticultureCouncil>).

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

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SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Glean Kentucky and Donations of Fresh Produce

Glean Kentucky works with farms, grocery stores, farmers markets, and gardens to address food waste and food insecurity and has collected over 2 million pounds of produce in Lexington and Central Kentucky. This organization helps farmers reduce food waste by gathering excess fresh produce and connecting it to feeding agencies to nourish Kentuckians facing food insecurity. To learn more, visit <https://gleanky.org/>.



Glean Kentucky was formed in 2010 as an initiative of a gardening class taught through a church in Lexington. During its first year, volunteers from 11 different faith communities worked together to glean surplus produce, resulting in over 37,000 pounds of produce gleaned and donated in the first year. Over time, Glean Kentucky has formed long-lasting partnerships with many different produce donors. Volunteers pick up excess produce from farmers markets and grocery stores and harvest surplus fruits and vegetables in the field from farms and orchards. Glean Kentucky even partners with home gardeners who want to donate the surplus produce from their

gardens through a program called Plant It Forward. Over the years, the impact has spread through numerous counties in Central and Southcentral Kentucky.

Legal protections for food donors: The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act is a Federal law that encourages donation of fresh produce to non-profit organizations feeding the hungry, such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens and churches. It also protects farmers from legal responsibility if anything happens to a volunteer or an individual on their farms while gleaning. State law in Kentucky is even more supportive of food donations. It protects donation of food to all people, as well as offers farmers the same protections for on-farm gleaning. Under both laws, farmers and grocers are protected from criminal and civil liability for harm resulting from apparently wholesome food donated to nonprofit organizations like Glean Kentucky. Wholesome food is anything that an individual can eat. You can still donate food that you can't sell because of appearance, age, freshness, grade, size or surplus. Additionally, Glean Kentucky's volunteers sign waivers before gleaning on a farm and receive training on correct produce handling. In addition to being protected by several laws, donations may be eligible for tax deductions (check with your tax advisor for details).



According to Feeding America, 1 in 7 Kentuckians experiences food insecurity. Experts estimate that up to 40% of all food produced for human consumption is wasted. Glean Kentucky has redistributed well over two million pounds of produce in 11 years of operating and has gleaned produce from over 140 different sources.

Glean KY expanded to South central KY in fall 2020, and seeks to continue developing partnerships with farms in the region to expand work throughout the Commonwealth.

If you would like to work with Glean Kentucky to connect your surplus produce with people in need, send an email at info@gleanky.org.

Veg Notes from Dr. Rudolph

Hi, Kentucky Vegetable Growers!

It was an unusually warm week, but there will be no complaints from me as it allows us to get things done outside. I'm sure many of you feel the same.

Here is an update on our projects and resources:

Kale and lettuce cultivar trials in high tunnels. The results of these trials will be published in the next UK Fruit and Vegetable Research Report, which will be available in early January. Copies will be available at the Fruit and Vegetable Conference, but you will also be able to access it online. The Fruit and Vegetable Research Report is an annual publication that gathers together the research that has been conducted over the last year by UK and KSU. The reports are technical and provide a lot of detail, but written with growers in mind.



A few examples of the unmarketable winter squash from the trial. Despite pesticide applications, fungus and insect damage can still be challenging to manage.

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*. The squash were harvested in September and are being evaluated monthly for their ability to store. We weigh them once a month to see how much weight has been lost.

Mustard cover crop cultivar trial. The purpose of this trial is to evaluate the biomass production and best planting date for fall-grown mustard cover crops. Six cultivars were evaluated. The final planting date (seeded in late August) was just recently terminated. The results of this trial will be available next year as will a factsheet on mustard cover crops. The trial will also be repeated in the spring to see how the mustard crop performance compares to the fall. Stay tuned!

It is usually recommended to wait to terminate mustards until they have flowered, especially if planning to use them for biofumigation. At left is an example of 'Pacific Gold' flowering. For more information on biofumigation: <https://veg crops.ca.uky.edu/extension-publications>



Flowering 'Pacific Gold' mustard cover crop

Evaluation of root-knot nematode resistant tomato rootstock in high tunnels. The results of these trials will be presented at the Fruit and Vegetable Conference by a graduate student in my program. Additionally, we will share the current results of our statewide soil survey of root-knot nematode.

In collaboration with Dr. Nicole Gauthier (UK Vegetable Pathologist) and others, we have been busy creating several new publications and updating others. Several of these publications are highlighted on pg. 6 as well as the new **Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2022-2023**, also known as ID-36. Printed copies are available from your county Extension office.

New videos are available on the Kentucky Vegetable Crops Extension and Research YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6JyU2Fdo3Yvml4y7LF0M4A>

I look forward to seeing you at the Fruit and Vegetable Conference in January!

Happy growing,

Rachel Rudolph
UK Extension Vegetable Specialist



The **2022 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference** will be held Friday, Feb 25 — Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Wilkinson Stumbo Convention Center at Jenny Wiley State Park, near Prestonsburg in Floyd County.

Friday afternoon workshops will include high tunnels, produce safety, integrated pest management and selling to schools.

Friday night will feature a guest speaker, dinner, music and dancing.

Saturday topics will include business, production, funding, regulations, risk management and sustainability.

For more information and registration details, visit the Conference webpage:

<https://cfaky.org/2022-eastern-kentucky-farmer-conference/>

National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS)

NASS just mailed out the National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) to growers. The NACS is an effort to identify potential agricultural operations to make sure every producer is counted. If you provided your contact information online to be counted in the Census, you should receive the Survey. This Survey is not the Census, but just as important to the process.



Specialty crop growers historically are hard to identify and get counted in the Census. If you have never received a USDA NASS survey or census, you can still sign up to be counted at www.agcounts.usda.gov/getcounted.

Questions about the Census or Survey can be directed to David Knopf, Regional Director of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office in Louisville. Phone: 502-907-3218 or email: david.knopf@usda.gov.

Farm-to-School in Kentucky

Have you read the recent F2S Census findings? In the US, about 2/3 of school food authorities (SFAs) are participating in some kind of farm to school activities. In Kentucky, it's slightly higher at 69.4%. Nationally and statewide, over half of the schools participating in F2S activities have just started in the last 3 years. The full Kentucky report is available online: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/census-results/states/ky>.



Research Summary

2019 Farm to School Census Report (Summary)

Are you enthusiastic about F2S and want to learn more from other F2S advocates? Consider joining the KY Farm to School Network! For more information about the Network, check out the KY F2S Network Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KYF2SNetwork>, or to join, please email KYF2Snetwork@gmail.com.

Do you have a great idea for a F2S project? The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is accepting applications for F2S projects through January 10, 2022. For more information, visit the USDA FNS program page: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program>. Want a quick intro about applying to the grant program? Watch this quick video with KCARD and KY Hort Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqxEI1tgA10>. KCARD staff are available to help with application reviews.



KVGA members, mark your calendars, the 3rd annual **virtual Kentucky Proud CSA Fair** will be February 25th-March 6th. This local food event will promote CSA offerings across Kentucky to the community members in their area. CSA farmers, don't miss out on this free promotion!

Learn more and register as a partner farm by December 15th [here](#).

Several special events will be held during the promotion including things like a nutritionist answering questions, conversations with local chefs, and general Q&A sessions. The Spring CSA promotion is hosted by the KY Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Proud, Bluegrass Farm to Table, Edible Kentucky, KY Horticulture Council, and the Organic Association of KY.

Between now and the promotion, you can join the new CSA in Kentucky Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kycsafair> and visit the KY Proud CSA page <https://kyproud.com/csa/> — if you offer a CSA program and don't see your business listed, contact agr.kyproud@ky.gov.

Please contact Katie Harvey (katie@oak-ky.org) OAK's CSA program coordinator with any questions about the event or featuring your farm in future promotions.

Vegetable Variety Survey

University of Kentucky researchers are seeking voluntary input from individuals or businesses producing vegetables and/or vegetable transplants. This 5-minute industry survey aims to identify research and Extension priorities focused on vegetable varieties.

If you or your business currently grow or are interested in growing vegetables and/or vegetable transplants, and are willing to participate in this short survey, [click this link](#) or scan the QR code to the right.

For more information or questions, contact: Dr. Garrett Owen at wgowen@uky.edu



Just scan the QR code with your phone's camera and the survey should launch!

Survey closes June 30, 2022

Growin' with Dr. Owen: Daily Light Integral Impacts Vegetable Transplant Quality



Plants require light for optimal growth, development, and yield. Solar radiation is light from the sun that varies by geographical location and over the course of the day, week, month, and growing season. Collectively, these factors will influence the duration (photoperiod) and quantity (intensity) of light that plants will receive, or the cumulative and integrated measurement referred to as the daily light integral (DLI). Figure 1 (p 13) demonstrates the variation of outdoor DLI across Kentucky.

In greenhouses, DLI can be reduced by up to 60% because of greenhouse glazing material, infrastructure, and overhead obstructions and thus, significantly influences vegetable transplant quality. Under low DLIs such as those during early spring months, germination will be delayed and uneven. Transplants will often be poor quality, exhibiting reduced root growth and weak, elongated shoots (hypocotyls) that can be easily broken while handling or transplanting. Under higher DLIs, root growth increases, and transplants are compact with short, thick hypocotyls and smaller leaves which are less likely to be damaged when handled. Figure 2 (p 13) demonstrates the influence of DLI on 'Straight Eight' cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) transplant quality. In general, growers should maintain an optimal DLI of 10 to 15 mol·m⁻²·d⁻¹ to produce high-quality vegetable transplants.

There are several practices growers can implement to manipulate the DLI when producing greenhouse-grown vegetable transplants. Growers must first determine their current light levels in the greenhouse using a light or quantum meter. These meters vary in costs and accuracy. After light levels are determined, DLI can be calculated, and a lighting strategy implemented. An example of a lighting strategy where light quantity and duration is manipulated is referred to as supplemental day-extension lighting. However, light quantity or duration alone can be manipulated. To manipulate light quantity, growers must deploy supplemental lighting which is defined as plants that are grown under natural solar radiation with the addition of light from horticultural lighting sources such as high-pressure sodium (HPS) or light-emitting diode (LED) lamps. Photoperiodic lighting means that plants are receiving horticultural lighting before sunrise and/or at sunset, thereby manipulating the duration of the day length, i.e., extending the day or day extension. However, lighting may not be feasible for all. Keeping the glazing material clean, selecting the appropriate glazing material and reglazing when needed, limiting overhead obstructions, retracting shade curtains, or removing whitewash are some light management strategies that can increase light transmission into the growing environment while maintaining low electrical costs and improving vegetable transplant quality.



EKY GROWER BUYER MEETUP
A Pre-EKY Farmer Conference Event!

Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg
10 am - noon
check-in starts at 9:30 am
Pre-Registration Required

February 25, 2022

This **Grower-Buyer MeetUp** will be one of the largest 2022 events bringing together buyers and produce growers. Opportunities for selling KY-grown ag products are increasing and finding the best buyer match is important for a profitable relationship. This Grower-Buyer MeetUp will be the single largest event bringing together buyers and growers and is co-hosted for the fourth year by KDA, KCARD, KHC, and UK MarketReady, with KVG and KSHS. Buyers include chefs, retail, and distribution representatives. Annually, more than 30 buyers

attend this event, representing businesses such as Creation Gardens, Kroger, Walmart, Houchens, AWG, Whole Foods, Good Foods Co-op, and other distributors who reach all levels of grocery outlets. This year, you will have a chance to meet one-on-one in a “speed date” format to exchange contact information and match up products and needs with key buyers. Face-to-face meetings with experts in food safety, organic production, and marketing will also be available. Check-in starts at 9:30 am with buyer introductions beginning promptly at 10 am (Eastern). Registration: <https://2022ekygrowerbuyermeetup.eventbrite.com>

Kentucky Daily Light Integral

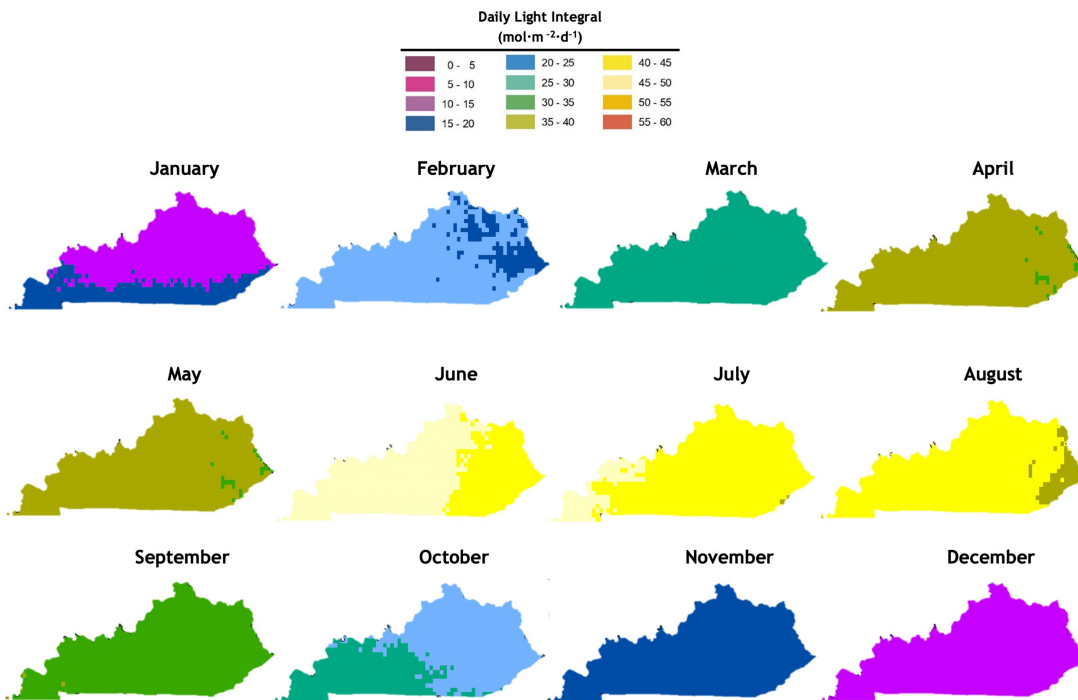


Figure 1. Outdoor daily light integral (DLI) across Kentucky. Adapted from www.afe.org and modified by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.

'Straight Eight' Cucumber

Daily Light Integral ($\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$)



14.1 10.3 8.1 5.3 2.4



Photos taken after 14 days under ambient solar radiation and shade treatments, supplemented with 16-h day-extension HPS lighting at 68 °F and provided with 75 ppm N from 17-3-17. © W. Garrett Owen

Figure 2. Influence of daily light integral on shoot and root growth, and overall transplant quality of 'Straight Eight' cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*). Photo by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.

For in-depth information about greenhouse lighting, be sure to join Dr. Owen at the 2022 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference in Bowling Green. Basics of Greenhouse Lighting is scheduled for Monday, January 3 at 1:30 pm Central.

Upcoming Industry Events

- 12/14 — Whole Farm Revenue Protection Webinar
- 12/15 — PSA Grower Training (virtual)
- 12/15 — Western KY Commercial Hort Conference (Pembroke)
- 12/28 — Vegetable, Fruit & Nut Crop Insurance Webinar
- 1/2-1/4 — Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference (Bowling Green)
- 1/4-1/7 — National No-Till Conference (Louisville)
- 1/27-1/29 — OAK Virtual Conference
- 2/25 — EKY Grower-Buyer MeetUp (Prestonsburg)
- 2/25-2/26 — Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference (Prestonsburg)
- 3/17-3/18 — OAK Regional Conference (Hopkinsville)
- 4/8 — OAK Regional Conference (Burlington)



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

Register Today!

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/>