

# KVGA Newsletter



June/July 2022

Vol. 3. No. 2

Harvest has likely been in full swing for most open field vegetable producers at this point in the season. Hopefully your seasons are going well. In positive recent news I have seen really high prices for wholesale watermelon which should translate for smaller growers' potential for increased prices selling direct to consumer sales as well.

Until recently it has been very dry in many locations around the state. Due to those conditions many were seeing more issues with insect pests as opposed to foliar diseases. However, with the recent increase in precipitation, if you haven't started preventative fungicide programs, I encourage you to consider it. If you need assistance, reach out to your county agent.

For some cucurbits, there exists forecasting systems such as Melcast (<http://melcast.ceris.purdue.edu/>). If you need assistance with this, also reach out to your county agent for process on getting weather coordinates for your county for best decision-making abilities. This is intended to properly time fungicide applications for management of Alternaria leaf blight, anthracnose, and gummy stem blight in cantaloupe and watermelon. It has been shown in some years to save 2 – 3 fungicide applications.

Also here is a link to access information on downy mildew (<https://cdm.ipmpipe.org/>) as this is one to watch out for on most cucurbits such as pumpkins, squash, cucumber, and watermelons. This tool provides the option for text and email alert as it gets closer to your location. Downy mildew is similar to blue mold of tobacco in that it generally cannot overwinter in Kentucky and moves in on rain and weather patterns from the southeast typically.

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- UK Extension Veg Crop Updates
- New CEA Website
- Certified Ag Dealer Program
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- On-Farm Water Management Program
- Growin' With Dr. Owen: Nutrient Monitoring
- Crop Insurance Training for Growers
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- Upcoming Events

It has been a challenging for many this year with tornadoes earlier in the western portion of the state. Now recently with flooding again in eastern Kentucky. Please try support those as you can that are dealing with these weather-related disasters.

As previously mentioned in the last newsletter, I hope we can move towards a more collaborative space during these challenging economic times. I encourage you to reach out and cooperate with neighboring farmers, build new relationships with vendors, and lean on the Association for support. As someone recently reminded me of an old saying, "you may go faster alone, but we go further together".

**Shubin Saha, DPM, PhD**

President,  
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

## **KVGA Officers**

### President

Shubin Saha

Kentucky Fresh Harvest (Stanford)

[S.Saha@kyfreshharvest.com](mailto:S.Saha@kyfreshharvest.com)

### Vice President

Nathan Howell

Need More Acres Farm (Scottsville)

[needmoreacresfarm@gmail.com](mailto:needmoreacresfarm@gmail.com)

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Cornett Farm Fresh (London)

[rcornett64@gmail.com](mailto:rcornett64@gmail.com)

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McMaine's Riverhaven Farm (Salvisa)

[rmcmaine@gmail.com](mailto:rmcmaine@gmail.com)

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Jerry Wyatt, KY Hydro Farm (Benton)

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Ryan Burnette, Kentucky Department of Ag (Frankfort)

Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Kentucky Horticulture Council (Lexington)

Janet Meyer, Berea College (Berea)

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)

## **Differences in Pesticides Prices, Formulations, and Generics can make Price Comparisons Tricky**

Compared with what was available just 10 years ago, we have a lot of pesticide options on the market. Even when you consider a single active ingredient, there may be the base product as well as several generic versions available. To make this even more confusing is that on top of this, there may be multiple formulations as well.

So how do you go about selecting the most cost effective product?

How I compare prices between products is by determining how much they cost per acre.

While some may cost more per gallon at the dealership, they may be cheaper per acre depending on the rate per acre needed.

So to determine the cost per acre, divide the cost of the product by the number of acres that can be treated.

For example, you purchase a gallon of a product at \$230 and the rate needed for the problem you have is 6 fl oz per acre. If the rate is 6 fl oz/acre then the gallon treats 21.3 acres (128 fl oz divided by 6). The cost would be \$10.78 per acre (\$230 divided by 21.3 acres).

Say another product you want to compare the product with costs \$52 per quart is and is used at 7.5 fl. oz per acre. The quart would treat 4.26 acres (32 fl. oz divided by 7.5 fl oz per acre). The cost per acre of the second product would be \$12.21 per acre (\$52 divided by 4.26 acres).

So even though the first product cost more initially, it is a cheaper product when you consider its cost per acre.

Ric Bessin,

University of Kentucky Extension Entomologist

[rbessin@uky.edu](mailto:rbessin@uky.edu)

859-257-7456

## Survey for Cucurbit Growers

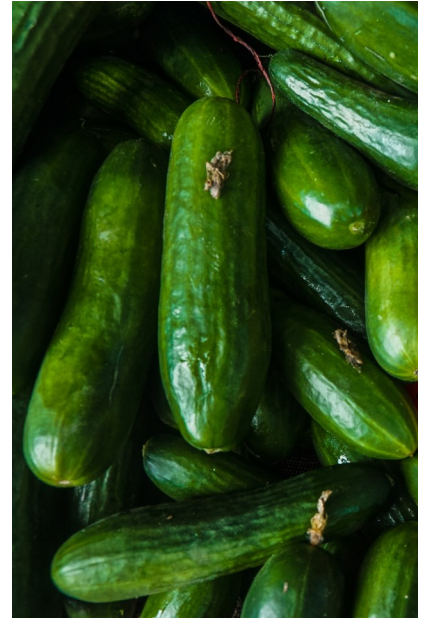
A group of researchers from Iowa State University, University of Kentucky and Cornell University are conducting a survey to learn about your experiences using row covers and your willingness to adopt a new row cover approach known as mesotunnels. Our study is evaluating the use of mesotunnels in the eastern half of the US for control of the full range of pests and diseases on organic production of cucurbit crops.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may not have used mesotunnels or row cover systems in your production, that is perfectly fine and we still value your opinions. Your responses are valuable to us and will contribute to improving row cover innovations.

To participate the survey, please use this link: <https://go.iastate.edu/EHWJCH>

The responses you provide will be kept completely confidential, and results will be reported in a summary form only. Please answer the questions by clicking on a response option or entering text in the box. You will have an opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey.

David Gonthier, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Entomology  
University of Kentucky  
[gonthier.david@uky.edu](mailto:gonthier.david@uky.edu)  
Website: [gonthierdavid.wix.com/djgonthier](http://gonthierdavid.wix.com/djgonthier)



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## Soil and Water Conservation Commission Farmer-Member Recruitment

To ensure that farmers are well represented, there are 3 farmer-at-large positions on the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This fall, two of those three producers will have terms that expire. The Commission has reached out to our organization to ask for assistance in identifying people to fill those positions. The state statutes ask that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission solicit nominations for these positions from agriculture operation organizations like KVGA. These positions are appointed by the Governor for a 4-year term and are unpaid.

If you know someone who would be willing to be a voice for farmers in Kentucky, please have them complete the online application at [boardregister.ky.gov/BnC/Account/Login.aspx](http://boardregister.ky.gov/BnC/Account/Login.aspx). Then, send us an email at [info@kyvga.org](mailto:info@kyvga.org) so we can let the Authority know who is being recommending for an at-large position.

Recommendation letters should be sent to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the address below by August 15th.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Attn: Paulette Akers  
Division of Conservation  
300 Sower Blvd  
Frankfort, KY 40601

For more information about the Commission, visit the website:  
<https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Soil-and-Water-Conservation-Commission>

## Hi, Kentucky Vegetable Growers!

We have been busy generating new grower resources, planning new educational opportunities, and conducting research that helps to answer grower questions and provide improved options for vegetable production and disease management. See what is new in each of these areas in the sections that follow and be sure to follow the team on social media to get the most up to date information.

### New Publications

Extension publications provide information on a range of topics in the areas of vegetable production and diseases. The following publications are recent additions to the collection. All horticulture related vegetable extension publications are available at <https://vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/> and plant disease publications can be found at <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications#VegetableCrops>.

New Publications:

Rotating Cut Flowers Within a Tomato High Tunnel Production System (CCD-FS-23) - [https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/HTflowers\\_tomatoes.pdf](https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/HTflowers_tomatoes.pdf)

Soil Salinity in High Tunnel Production (CCD-FS-24) - [https://vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/sites/vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/files/general/soil\\_salinity\\_1.pdf](https://vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/sites/vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/files/general/soil_salinity_1.pdf)

Botrytis Blight (PPFS-GEN-19) - <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-19.pdf>

Damping-off of Vegetables & Herbaceous Ornamentals (PPFS-GEN-03) - <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-03.pdf>

Bacterial Spot of Pepper & Tomato (PPFS-VG-17) - <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-vg-17.pdf>

The Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36) has been revised for 2022-2023 and is available at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id36/id36.pdf>

### Research Updates

*Lettuce Research Project:* Just an update on our lettuce-*Sclerotinia* project. You may remember that in February four varieties of lettuce were planted at three different time points in both a low or high level of irrigation treatment. This was done in a high tunnel naturally infested with *Sclerotinia*, the pathogen that causes lettuce drop. Plants were rated weekly for disease until they were ready for harvest. After harvest, plants are evaluated for quality and weighed. We are about to harvest the third and final planting date of lettuce. The final report for this trial will include information on susceptibility of lettuce varieties to lettuce drop, influence of planting date and irrigation practices on disease levels, and impact of disease, planting date, and irrigation practices on yield and quality. Stay tuned!

*Continued on following page.*



Dr. Nicole Gauthier  
Extension Plant  
Pathologist  
ngauthier@uky.edu  
859-218-0720



Dr. Rachel Rudolph  
Extension Vegetable  
Specialist  
Rachel.Rudolph@uky.edu  
859-257-3374



*Solarization Research Project:* The fungus *Sclerotinia* can cause disease issues for high tunnel producers and result in yield losses. This fungus produces survival structures called sclerotia that are capable of surviving for more than 5 years in soil and can be difficult to manage once present. Soil solarization is a management technique that uses passive solar heating of irrigated soil under transparent plastic tarping. The soil is heated to temperatures detrimental to many soilborne pests, pathogens, and weeds. To determine if solarization is effective in reducing the viability of sclerotia, mesh bags containing sclerotia were buried at two, four, and six inches depths. Data loggers that recorded soil temperatures were also buried with the sclerotia. Soil was irrigated to 70% field capacity and plots were covered with 6 mil poly plastic and sealed by burying the edges of the plastic. Plots were solarized for two, four, and six weeks. Other plots were left uncovered for a non-solarized comparison. Viability of fungal survival structures at the different depths and lengths of solarization is being assessed in the laboratory. Results will be presented at the 2023 Fruit and Vegetable Conference.



*Tomato & Cut Flower Rotation Project:* Many high tunnel tomato growers have a number of months where their structures are not in use. To extend the production season and provide additional income for a second crop, the model of tomato production in a high tunnel followed by the production of cut flowers is being researched. The goal of this project is to determine the economic value of this model as well as the impact on soil, disease, and insect pests with this rotation. We are looking forward to harvest!



Thanks for your interest in our work. We hope to share our results with you this winter. Stay tuned in the fall for more updates.

Happy growing,

Rachel Rudolph, UK Extension Vegetable Specialist  
Nicole Gauthier, UK Extension Vegetable Pathologist

Rachel Rudolph, UK Extension Vegetable Specialist  
Nicole Gauthier, UK Extension Vegetable Pathologist



Want to stay connected with the UK Vegetable Extension Team? Be sure to follow us on any or all of these social media platforms and don't forget to subscribe to the listserv to receive the latest information directly in your inbox.

KY Fruit & Veg Extension Social Media

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/KYFruitVegExtension> or @KYFruitVegExtension

Twitter - @KYFruit\_VegExtn Instagram - @KY\_Fruit\_Veg\_Extension

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRET-uFub4pdX0M6-YMaEBw>

Vegetable Alert Listserv for Commercial Growers (Subscribe at: [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cCtU7usSqWbyZq6](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCtU7usSqWbyZq6))

Nicole Gauthier Social Media

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/KYFruitandVegExtension> or @KYPlantDisease

Twitter - @KYPlantDisease YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/NicoleGauthier>

Rachel Rudolph Social Media

Instagram - @UK\_veg\_crops

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6JyU2Fdo3YvmI4y7LF0M4A>

## New UK Controlled Environment Horticulture Website

The University of Kentucky Controlled Environment Horticulture (CEH) unit has a new website (Fig. 1)!

Check out <https://greenhousehort.ca.uky.edu/> for highlights of past and current controlled environment horticulture research, Extension efforts, and classes. Led by Dr. W. Garrett Owen, Assistant Extension Professor of Greenhouse and Controlled Environment Horticulture, the website includes links to grower resources on topics such as temperature, lighting, growth control, nutrition, substrates, and more. Extension fact sheets, reference guides, and Extension publications like '[Controlled Environment Horticulture](#)' can found on the website.

The website is for new to experienced growers producing food crops under controlled environmental (greenhouse) conditions.

Delia Scott  
Agriculture Extension Associate  
Floriculture, Greenhouse and Controlled Environment  
859-257-8605  
Delia.Scott@uky.edu  
<https://greenhousehort.ca.uky.edu/>

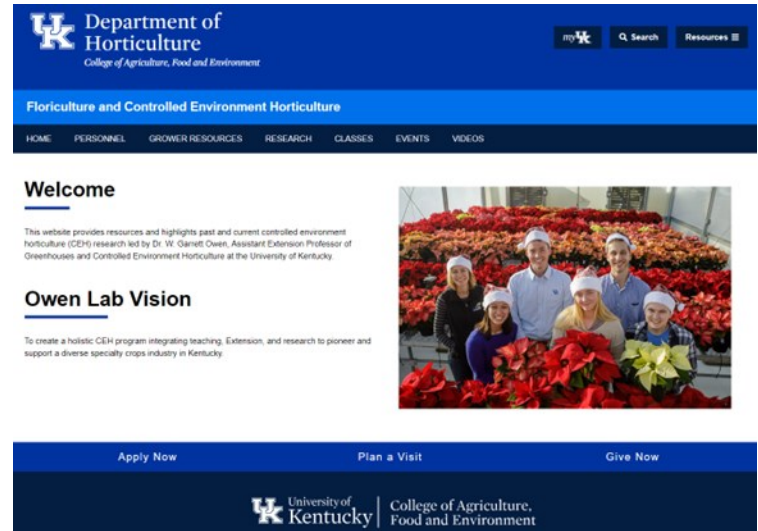


Figure 1. The new University of Kentucky Controlled Environment Horticulture website.

Photo by W. Garrett Owen.

## Certified Agriculture Dealer (CAD) Program

Are you looking for a new truck? A relatively new service is out there that could assist in your search. The Certified Agriculture Dealer (CAD) Program announces the launch of [AgTruckTrader.com](https://AgTruckTrader.com), a new farm truck online marketplace for farmers to discover, review, purchase, finance, and even order your next farm truck. You can view thousands of new and gently used trucks available from Certified Agriculture Dealers all across the country.

There are three dealerships in Kentucky and many in Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, and Indiana. You can compare prices to determine competitiveness with local dealers and explore opportunities for savings related to AgPack (a specialized package of farm rebates and discounts, available exclusively through Certified Agriculture Dealers) that gives the agriculture truck purchaser an immediate return on their vehicle investment by offering back-end savings.

Current AgPack partners include: Michelin and BF Goodrich tires; AgroLiquid Crop Nutrition; Rhino Ag equipment; Dixie Chopper commercial mowers; AgriEdge farm management system; Reinke Irrigation; Gallagher Fencing & Weighing Equipment; Eby trailers and truck bodies; Viasat high speed internet, Citgo's Mystic Lubricants, Tarter Farm & Ranch Equipment and DTN/Farm Market iD agricultural data, Outback Wrap hose identification system and PUTCO work truck accessories.

You can learn more about Certified Agriculture Dealers at [www.certifiedagdealer.com](https://www.certifiedagdealer.com) and visit [AgTruckTrader.com](https://AgTruckTrader.com).



## Study Input: Integrating vegetable, poultry, and cover cropping practices to enhance resiliency in organic production systems

You are invited to participate in a research survey about integrating vegetable and poultry production through rotating poultry and vegetables on the same land.

The purpose of this study is to understand vegetable growers' experiences and perceptions of integrating poultry into vegetable rotations and their interest in engaging with the research. This study is funded by the USDA Organic Research and Education Initiative.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short survey (approximately 5 minutes). We do not anticipate that you will experience any risks or discomfort from participating. To take the survey, please follow this link: [https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bxqORFclrwyBtmm](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bxqORFclrwyBtmm)

This survey is anonymous, meaning we will not collect any identifying information, like your name. If you would like to get involved in the research through on-farm trials or joining the advisory board or enter a drawing, we will collect your name via a separate link to keep your name separate from your survey answers. Anonymous data you provide may be shared with funding agencies, if requested.

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part in the study or to stop participating at any time, for any reason, without penalty or negative consequences. You can skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

If you choose to complete the survey, **you will have the opportunity to enter a drawing to win one of 4-\$25 gift cards.**

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Arlene Enderton by email at [arlene@iastate.edu](mailto:arlene@iastate.edu) or phone at (641) 425-4948.

If you have any questions *about the rights of research subjects or research-related injury*, please contact the IRB Administrator, (515) 294-4566, [IRB@iastate.edu](mailto:IRB@iastate.edu), or Director, (515) 294-3115, Office of Research Ethics, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

If you know of any other farmers who might be interested in taking this survey, please forward this invitation to them.

Research Investigators: Ajay Nair, Maurice Pitesky, and David Gonthier  
David Gonthier, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky  
[gonthier.david@uky.edu](mailto:gonthier.david@uky.edu)



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## On-Farm Irrigation or Water Management Projects

Are you considering a new irrigation system or another water related project or upgrade on your farm? The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) offers an On-Farm Water Program to help KY growers with water projects. The program has cost-share funds to incentivize better water management practices.

Projects can include irrigation infrastructure, microirrigation systems, high tunnel gutters and catchment systems, and many more strategies to help you manage water for your produce crops.

Program guidelines can be found online: [https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/documents/2022-Program-Guidelines-Applications/ADF\\_APP\\_project-guidelines\\_water.pdf](https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/documents/2022-Program-Guidelines-Applications/ADF_APP_project-guidelines_water.pdf)

2022 Deadlines:

August 26

December 16

## Growin' with Dr. Owen

### Monitoring Greenhouse Container Crop Nutrition



Nutritional disorders are among the many challenges growers of vegetable transplants or greenhouse vegetable growers encounter during crop production. Nutritional disorders often occur when substrate pH or soluble salts (referred to as electrical conductivity or EC) drifts above or below the optimal ranges for plant uptake. To assist greenhouse growers in the effort to address nutritional disorders, a collaborative group of greenhouse and floriculture specialists and educators called [e-GRO](http://www.fertdirtandsquirt.com) (electronic grower resources online), has launched a Nutritional Monitoring of Greenhouse Crops website, [www.fertdirtandsquirt.com](http://www.fertdirtandsquirt.com) (Fig. 1), led by [Dr. W. Garrett Owen](#) from the University of Kentucky. This website assists growers in establishing an in-house monitoring program, serves as an information and education center, and is accessible by computer, tablet, or mobile device.

The website currently provides growers with 65 [crop-specific nutritional factsheets](#) (Fig. 2) for vegetable transplants, herbs, annual bedding plants, herbaceous perennials, potted flowering plants, and hemp. These crop-specific nutritional factsheets provide the optimal crop-specific fertility requirements, pH, and EC values reported by the 1:2 Dilution, Saturated Media Extraction (SME), and PourThru methods for soilless substrate-grown plants. In addition, each factsheet provides fertility management recommendations, corrective procedures for high and low pH and EC, nutritional disorder photos, and leaf tissue nutrient values to compare against lab analyses. In addition to these factsheets, a searchable database consisting of 580 floriculture and edible crops is available which allows growers to search for crops by scientific name to view the optimal crop-specific fertility requirements, pH, and EC values.

If you need help starting an in-house nutrient monitoring program, the website provides instructional 'How To' videos and guides. For instance, instructional 'How To' videos and guides for determining substrate pH and EC by either 1:2 Dilution, Saturated Media Extraction (SME), and PourThru method are available. Sampling methods to determine pH and EC of annual bedding and perennial plants, plugs, liners, flats, pots, and hanging baskets are also available. The website also provides a document and poster outlining steps on how to correct low or high substrate pH and EC challenges. Additionally, macronutrient-specific factsheets for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulfur are available that outline corrective procedures when growers need to increase or decrease a macronutrient.

As a continuous effort to provide growers with nutritional information, the website is updated monthly with new postings of crop-specific nutritional factsheets, videos, and guides.

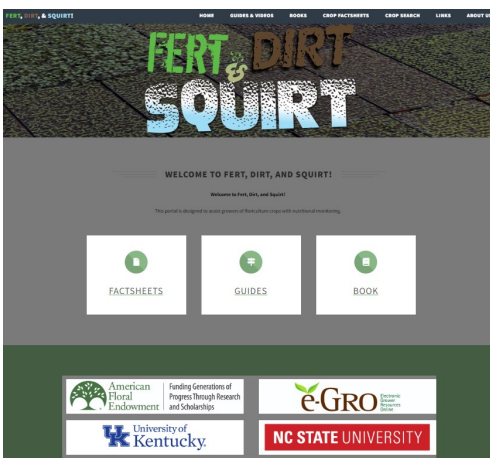
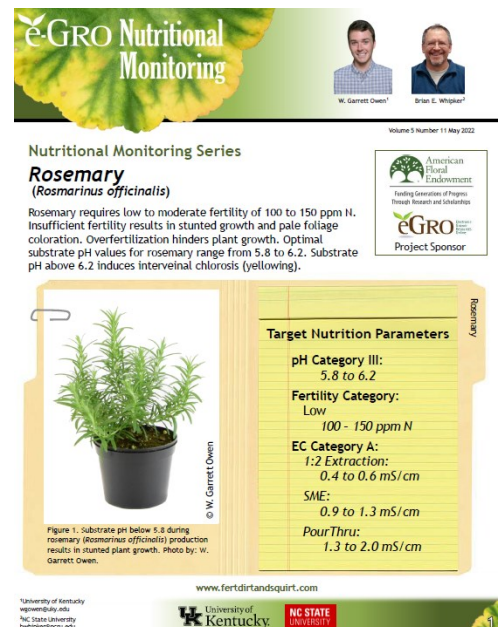


Figure 1. A collaborative group of greenhouse and floriculture specialists and educators, [e-GRO](http://www.fertdirtandsquirt.com), launched a Nutritional Monitoring of Greenhouse Crops website, [www.fertdirtandsquirt.com](http://www.fertdirtandsquirt.com). Pictured is the website homepage. Photo by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.

Figure 2. 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 rosemary nutritional factsheet. Photo by Dr. W. Garrett Owen.





## 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.

### 2022

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](mailto:Dakota@kyhortcouncil.org)) to be covered during the webinars.

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



Vol. 1 | Issue 2 | July 2022

The Marketeer

## The Marketeer

### Newsletter

Have you subscribed to MarketReady's quarterly newsletter? If not, email [savannah.columbia@uky.edu](mailto:savannah.columbia@uky.edu) to get on the mailing list.

## MARKET READY BUYER TOURS

These tours are free to growers and provide a behind-the-scenes of many local food buyers. This is a great opportunity for growers to make connections and see what selling to schools/grocery/retail/etc. is all about. Two locations have been confirmed:

Louisville Friday, August 12, 2022 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT.

<https://marketready.uky.edu/events/buyertourlou>

Lexington, Friday, August 19, 2022 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT.

<https://marketready.uky.edu/events/buyertourlex>

RSVP for tours at either location by August 5.



## Upcoming Industry Events

- 7/12 — Crop Insurance Refresher and Recap Webinar
- 8/4 — OAK Flower, Herb and Veg Field Day (Greenup)
- 8/9 — Kentucky First Farm Workshop (RCARS, Quicksand)
- 8/9 — Online Resources for Growers Crop Insurance Webinar
- 8/11 — UK Robinson Center Twilight Tour (Quicksand)
- 8/12 — Produce Buyer Tour (Louisville)
- 8/19 — Produce Buyer Tour (Lexington)
- 8/30 — PSA Grower Training (virtual)
- 9/13 — Crop Insurance Program WrapUp and Q&A Webinar
- 9/13 — OAK Organic Market Gardening (Lawrenceburg)
- 9/13 — EQIP High Tunnel Workshop (Lexington)
- 10/1 — Mountain Fest Field Day (RCARS, Quicksand)
- 10/13 — UK Vegetable Extension Program Field Day (Lexington)
- 11/1 — OAK CSA Virtual Field Day
- 11/10 — Grower Buyer MeetUp (Owensboro)



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



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

**Info@KyVGA.org**

## Save-the-Date

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Jan. 2 — Pre-Conference Events

Jan. 3-4 — Educational Sessions & Trade Show

Slone Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY