

KVGA Newsletter

December 2022

Vol. 3. No. 4



The past year has brought with it both longstanding and new challenges, particularly concerning supply chain operations. These challenges now require growers to focus more on advanced planning to manage the intricate details of production, and the cost of input materials for vegetable crops. However, these challenging shifts also create opportunities for collaboration in our community to protect against threats in pricing, inventory and efficiency. These dynamic changes have created short-term struggles for all of us as individuals, but promising long-term solutions for a more resilient future as an industry. As the end of the year approaches, it's time to start thinking critically about next year's plans. It's also a good time to evaluate your current crops and take note of what worked well and what didn't.

There are many resources available to help you with this process. You can, of course, do your own research by reading appropriate literature. Personally, I've found [Frontiers in Plant Science](#) to be a fantastic resource - their paper on Source-Sink Relationships in Crop Plants and Their Influence on Yield Development and Nutritional Quality was extremely helpful in my own work. Here, and elsewhere, there is a wealth of information on your current crops as well as any new crops you may be considering for the 2023 season. Now is the time to evaluate how your crops performed and see where investments may help further improve your production. Irrigation automation is one fairly inexpensive option to help your productivity and also make better uses of inputs such as fertilizer and water. This can be done in protected ag settings such as high tunnels and also in the open field. Battery operated actuators for solenoid valves are something I have used with good efficacy and efficiency in open field crops. Often these types of devices can be procured for less than \$200.

There are also several opportunities in the coming year for in-person networking with other growers, suppliers and buyers. I strongly suggest attending the Annual [Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference](#) January 2-4 in Bowling

Green and capitalizing on the opportunity to communicate with other growers, share best practices, and build relationships with vendors. As always there are several sessions in a vast array of topics from open field to greenhouse as well as conventional to organic. Even if you can't make it to the conference in person, I recommend that you consider visiting the KY Horticulture Council Website. They offer many resources, such as training opportunities, that can help you improve your business. The Council also lobbies on behalf of our industry at the state and federal level. They work to ensure that growers and farmers have a voice in the legislative process and that our interests are protected. Joining in the discussion, and sharing the challenges your business is facing, is the best way to ensure that groups like KVGA and the Hort Council know which issues are important to you.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association. We look forward to working with you next year to make your business even more successful.

Shubin Saha, DPM, PhD

President,

Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

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KVGA Officers

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Nathan Howell

Need More Acres Farm (Scottsville)

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859-533-3768

rmcmaine@gmail.com

KVGA Board Members

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Sandi Deutsch, Deutsch Farm (Taylorsville)

Jerry Hyatt, KY Hydro Farm (Benton)

Annette Meyer-Heisdorffer, Daviess Co Extension (Owensboro)

David Neville, Capstone Produce Auction (Campbellsburg)

Brad Reid, Reid's Orchard (Owensboro)

Jacob Sharpe, Homegrown Direct (Georgetown)

Ben Wilson, Dragonfly Hollow Farm (Richmond)

Joel Wilson, Wilson's Cedar Point Farm (Nancy)

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)

University of Kentucky Extension Update

Delia Scott

Beginning Farmers

Delia Scott is the new Extension Associate for Beginning Fruit and Vegetable Farmers in the UK Department of Horticulture. A Kentucky native, her background includes sustainable and organic horticultural production, community programming, educational program development, and local food systems. Delia will consult with beginning farmers on farm planning and fruit and vegetable crop production methods, develop educational materials and resources, and address other issues faced by beginning farmers.



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.

Arundathi Sharma

Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)

Arundathi Sharma is the new Extension Associate for Controlled Environment Agriculture. She grew up in New Jersey and holds a BSc in mechanical engineering, and she has maintained a long-term interest in food systems and agriculture. She has previously worked as a Technical Program Manager at a vertical farming start-up in Berlin, Germany, where she focused on horticultural lighting and biofeedback systems, and led an app development team. Most recently, she worked on task-tracking and quality control software at a high-tech greenhouse operation here in KY.



In her new role, Arundathi will focus on identifying current and future controlled-environment growers, evaluating their needs, and developing appropriate support resources. She can be reached at arundathi.sharma@uky.edu.

These positions are funded by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a grant from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

Vegetable Extension Update: Fall 2022 Vegetable IPM Field Day Video Series

The 2022 Vegetable IPM Field Day was October 13, 2022 held both in-person and virtually. University of Kentucky Specialists' presentations were recorded and are now available online for viewing at the following YouTube links:

Introduction to Lettuce Sclerotinia High Tunnel Trial – Dr. Rachel Rudolph:

https://youtu.be/g_nYh1Cas30

Lettuce Drop in High Tunnel Lettuce Production – Dr. Nicole Gauthier:

<https://youtu.be/T3ydsLoUG5E>

Introduction to High Tunnel Crop Rotation to Extend the Production Season –

Dr. Rachel Rudolph: <https://youtu.be/3uLYI4ygIZ0>

Insect Pest Monitoring and Management in High Tunnel Cut Flower Production –

Dr. Jonathan Larson: <https://youtu.be/84R208XA7ng>

Powdery Mildew Disease Identification and Management for Cut Flowers in High Tunnels –

Dr. Nicole Gauthier: <https://youtu.be/AalvMixJyBI>

Pesticide Restrictions for High Tunnels – Dr. Ric Bessin:

<https://youtu.be/LIQAW7p6U0A>

Insect Pest Management with Biocontrols – Dr. Jonathan Larson:

<https://youtu.be/Hg98YREmNE4>

Pesticide Calculations for Small Acreages and High Tunnels – Dr. Ric Bessin:

<https://youtu.be/HbDdVp16a2M>

High Tunnel Solarization Trial – Dr. Rachel Rudolph, Dr. Nicole Gauthier, and

Dr. Jonathan Larson: <https://youtu.be/Z3snGATetfs>

Field Solarization Trial – Dr. Rachel Rudolph and Dr. Nicole Gauthier:

https://youtu.be/IOQjrrp_YIA

Preparation of Newly Installed High Tunnels for Successful Production –

Dr. Rachel Rudolph, Dr. Ric Bessin, Dr. Nicole Gauthier, and Dr. Jonathan Larson:

<https://youtu.be/JbBBWyI2SDM>



Dr. Rachel Rudolph
Extension Vegetable
Specialist

rachel.rudolph@uky.edu

859-257-3374



Dr. Nicole Gauthier
Extension Plant
Pathologist

ngauthier@uky.edu

859-218-0720

Post-Harvest Grower Survey

We are seeking feedback from growers about their post-harvest storage of produce. This information will be used to develop new grower resources and educational programs. The survey takes just a few minutes and can be accessed online at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2tXeWzkAd0HHy4e

Want to stay connected with the UK Vegetable Extension Team? Be sure to follow 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)

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 – @uky_veg_crops

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6JyU2Fdo3Yvml4y7LF0M4A>

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Letter of Invitation

Dear Fruit and Vegetable Growers:

The 2023 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held in-person at the Holiday Inn Sloan Convention Center, in Bowling Green, KY, on **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 3 and 4, 2023**. You may pre-register by mail or online (<https://2023KYFruitVegConference.eventbrite.com>).

The event will begin on Monday, January 2 with a pre-conference Farmers Market Short Course, Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop, and a Bringing the Farm to School Grower Training 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 (High Tunnel) Production, Marketing and Business Management, a Cut Flower Short Course and more new educational tracks. We have many growers on the program as well as a number of excellent out-of-state speakers this year and our trade show will feature more than 60 exhibitors.

Note that registration includes the Exhibitor/Grower (Tuesday) and Conference (Wednesday) 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 for posting.

PLEASE make your room reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-HOLIDAY using the **block code KFV** or using the [group booking link](#). Our block of rooms will be held until December 16, 2022. After this date, 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 \$103.95. If you find that the block of rooms at our conference rate is full on or before December 16, please call Angela Price (270-393-8668) 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 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 all educational sessions as well as lunch on both days. Pre-registration means your tickets and name tag will be ready for you at the registration table when you arrive at the meeting. Name badges will be required to enter meeting rooms. Pre-registration forms or online registrations need to be in our hands by Friday, December 16, 2022. After this date you may continue to register online or on-site at the conference at the \$75 rate. Phone registrations will not be accepted.

NOTE: we strongly urge you to pre-register as on-site registration will be \$75 and luncheon tickets may not be available.

If you would like to serve on the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association (KVGA) or Kentucky State Horticultural Society (KSHS) boards of directors or would like to nominate another member, please designate this at registration.

If you are unable to attend and you would like to 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/2023-kentucky-fruit-and-vegetable-conference/>) for additional information about meeting precautions and any meeting updates.

Sincerely,

Shubin Saha

Shubin Saha, President
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

Jonathan Price

Jonathan Price, President
Kentucky State Horticultural Society

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Overview

The hosting organizations are pleased to bring Kentucky producers another excellent annual Conference, with more than 90 speakers and 15 different educational tracks. More than 50 vendors will be onsite and we will once again have fan favorites of hot/cold cider from a local orchard, the Trading Post where you can list items for sale, and new this year, lunch is included featuring KY Proud products.

The next few pages detail the 2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Program and the complete program is [available online](#).

Don't forget to register early for the discounted rate!

You can register online: <https://2023KYFruitVegConference.eventbrite.com>

Or, print and mail in the registration form on pg 8.

**Note that due to the
New Year's holiday,
the Conference is
Tuesday and Wednesday
in 2023**

2023 SPECIALSESSIONS

FARMERS' MARKET SHORT COURSE
FARM FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP
BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL GROWER TRAINING
VEGETABLE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
TREE & SMALL FRUIT ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
URBAN & SMALL FARM GROWER MEET & GREET
AGVETS MEET & GREET



*The program artwork is by local student
Eden Elwell from Shephardsville, KY*

GENERAL SESSION

2023 Fruit & Vegetable Conference Welcome — Shubin Saha
Kentucky Horticulture Council Update — Cindy Finneseth
University of Kentucky Horticulture Department Update — Mark Williams
Kentucky State University Update — Kirk Pomper
Kentucky Department of Agriculture Update — Ryan Quarles
Farm Food Safety and FSMA Updates — Ryan Burnette
Kentucky State Parks Want Fresh Produce — Thomas Brown
Farmer Feature — Need More Acres: Second Generation — Carter & Elizabeth Howell
The Food Connection — Ashton Potter-Wright

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Sessions

DIRECT MARKETING

- Social Media: Tips, Tools and Tricks for Improving your Social Media Marketing — Amanda Kelly
- Value Added: What is it? How to do it? Do I need permits? — Sally Dabb and Annhall Norris
- Producer Panel Discussion: Sharing Our Secrets — Tonya Cherry, Ashley DeBord, and Michelle Wheeler
- Budgeting the Farm — Spencer Guinn
- Marketing Programs and Opportunities — Sharon Spencer, Fran McCall, and Joni Nelson

TREE FRUIT PRODUCTION

- Plum Curculio — Ric Bessin
- Fertilizer Application Technology — Dave Lockwood
- Invasive Ambrosia Beetle — Raul Villanueva
- 2022 Season - Grower Perspective — Kevan Evans, Jonathan Price, Brandon Barnett
- Climate Change and Fruit Production — Dave Lockwood
- Dwarf Apple Rootstocks for Kentucky — John Strang

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FOR EXPERIENCED GROWERS

- Fusarium Rot in Pumpkins and Winter Squash — Nicole Gauthier
- Collaborating with Researchers for On-Farm Research Trials — Ron & Linda McMaine, Maggie Dungan
- Managing New Invasive Pests and What to Look For — Ric Bessin
- Grafting on Watermelons — Wenjing Guan
- Irrigation and Fertility Management in Watermelon — Wenjing Guan

BEGINNING FARMER BASICS

- Business Management Basics — Spencer Guinn
- Pesticide Basics — Ric Bessin
- Marketing Basics — Savannah Columbia
- Wildlife Management for Beginners — Matt Springer
- Production Considerations and Funding Sources — Delia Scott

ORGANIC PRODUCTION

- Solway Farms: Selling Online, Finding a Niche, & Year Round Market Garden — Lesley Dennis
- Climate Change and Organic Farming: What Do We Know? — Sean Clark
- Counting Bugs and Action Thresholds — Jonathan Larson
- Integrated Nutrient Management for Organic Farms: Introduction to Nutrient Budgeting — Krista Jacobsen
- Soil Testing and Soil Health in Diversified Production Systems — Shawn Lucas

TREE FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR EXPERIENCED GROWERS

- 2023 Spray Guide Update — Ric Bessin
- Wolf on the Border: Spotted Lantern Fly in Kentucky — Jonathan Larson
- Orchard Vole Control — Matt Springer
- Tree Fruit Observations — John Strang

BEGINNING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

- KVGA Annual Business Meeting
- The Basics of Cover Cropping with Vegetables — Rachel Rudolph
- Grower Panel: What I Wish I Knew When I Started Farming — Jessica & John Hodges, Nathan Howell, Susan & George Miller, Joel Wilson
- Pest Management in Sweet Corn — Ric Bessin
- Biocontrol 101 — Jonathan Larson

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Managing Farm Stress — Laura Weddle and Paul Norrod
- Importance of Emergency Preparedness for Produce Farms — Melissa Morgan
- Crop Insurance for Specialty Crop Growers — Cody Adkins
- H2A Overview and best practices — Jeff Gatewood
- H2A Best Practices - grower perspective — Joel Wilson, Jeremy Hinton, Jeremy Stull

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Sessions

CUT FLOWER SHORT COURSE

- Designing an Effective On-Farm Workshop —
Melanie Stock
- Evaluating Profitability of Different Sales Channels —
Savannah Columbia
- What We Learned from a Florist Survey —
Melanie Stock
- Record Keeping: Is Your Crop Worth the Space —
Melanie Stock
- The Kentucky Cut Flower Calendar — Tara Watkins
- Cut Flower Fertility Dos & Don'ts — Melanie Stock
- My Top 5 Cut Flowers — Michelle Wheeler
- Drying Cut Flowers to Extend Your Season —
Krynn Knepfel
- The Kentucky Flower Market — Sarah Torgerson and
Kayla Carey
- KY Cut Flower Grower Panel

HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION

- High Tunnel Cucumber Production — Wenjing Guan
- Sclerotinia Management in Lettuce — Nicole Gauthier
- Protect Your Investment: Prevent Damage and Extend
the Life of Your Tunnel — Chris McKenzie
- Managing Root-knot Nematode in Kentucky High
Tunnels — Victoria Bajek
- Soil Solarization in High Tunnels: Temperature,
Moisture, Pathogens, and Weeds — Rachel Rudolph

MARKETING

- Economic Feasibility and Consumer Acceptance of
Potted Strawberry Plants as an Additional Offering
in Fall Mum Sale — Eve Bogue and Anna Griggs
- Forecasting yield for wholesale markets — Trevor Terry
- What do retail buyers want? — DeAnne Elmore
- KDA and Farm Produce Purchasing Programs —
Ian Hester
- Farmer Panel: Business Models to Increase Market Share
— Nancy Dawson, Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin,
Ashley Smith

SMALL FRUIT PRODUCTION

- KSU Organic Primocane Fruiting Blackberry Production
— Jeremy Lowe
- Practicality of Exclusion Netting in Blueberry and
Raspberry Production — Ryan Kuesel
- Elderberries — Patrick Byers (Zoom)
- Containerized Blueberry Production — Daniel Becker
- Plasticulture Strawberry Production — Shawn Wright

URBAN AND SMALL-SCALE FARMING

- Microgreen Production on an Urban Farm —
LeTicia Marshall
- Marketing Your Urban Farm on Social Media —
Vonn Barnes
- USDA Program Opportunities for Urban and Small-Scale
Producers — Kate Little, Joe Ulrich,
Michael Zachary
- The AppHarvest Urban Farm Model — Amy Samples
- Urban Farmer Grower Panel — Vonn Barnes, Mariel
Gardner, Jeff Coles, LeTicia Marshall

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROJECT REPORTS

- Tomato grafting for plant-parasitic nematode
management in Kentucky High Tunnels —
Victoria Bajek
- Cultivate Kentucky Partnership Quality Initiative —
Bryan Brady
- Developing New Specialty Crop Markets: Super Snax
Fruit & Vegetable Program — Michelle Howell
- Kentucky's Small Fruit Industry Assessment to Increase
Grower Competitiveness — Cindy Finneseth
- Plate It Up! Kentucky Proud: Sustainability Project —
Heather Norman-Burgdolf
- Developing Management Strategies Against Invasive
Ambrosia Beetles Affecting Apples and Nurseries in
Kentucky — Raul Villanueva
- Expanding Local Specialty Crop Availability in South
Central Kentucky — SoKY Marketplace
- Applying for the Kentucky Specialty Crop Block Grant:
Tips for Success — David Morris

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION - 2023 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference
Holiday Inn/Slone Conference Center, Bowling Green, KY
January 3-4, 2023

Online preregistration: <https://2023KYFruitVegConference.eventbrite.com>

Mark one: REGISTRATION
 I am not able to attend-please continue my membership(s) as listed below.

NAME (Please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____ OCCUPATION/FIRM _____

FAX: () _____ E-Mail _____

Please List Name(s) of Additional Registrants: _____

I am interested in being considered as a board member in:
 KSHS (fruit growers) KVGA (vegetable growers)

Registration is complimentary for students and children under 15 years of age. A SEPARATE FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH REGISTRANT EXCEPT FOR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN. Please copy form if needed. You can also print forms from the Conference website (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2023-kentucky-fruit-and-vegetable-conference/>). Registration questions, call: 859-490-0889 or email: info@kyhortcouncil.org.

Please let us know if you are a:
 Grower
 Extension Agent
 Commercial Pesticide Applicator
 Other

 Please check if you are a US Veteran

What are your top 3 research needs?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

2023 MEETING REGISTRATION

Indicate the number of registrations and total amount.

	Number	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky State Horticultural Society <i>annual membership in KSHS (fruit growers) & meeting registration</i>		
Number attending x \$50 each	_____	X \$50 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association <i>annual membership in KVGA (veg growers) & meeting registration</i>		
Number attending x \$50 each	_____	X \$50 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Association of Kentucky <i>annual membership in OAK (organic growers) & meeting registration</i>		
Number attending x \$50 each	_____	X \$50 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Farm Sponsorship		
<i>Voluntary contribution toward Conference expenses (room rental, lunches, etc)</i>	_____	X \$125 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Horticulture Research Initiative		
<i>Voluntary, tax-exempt contribution to KHRI for industry research</i>	_____	_____
Write in donation	_____	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

Please make checks payable to: KY State Horticultural Society (KSHS). Mail form and check to: Kentucky Horticulture Council, PO Box 21736, Lexington, KY 40522-1736.

Check # _____

Please note that the Conference is the first Tuesday and Wednesday of January and lunches are included in the registration fee

2023 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference Sponsors



As of December 1 — sponsorship opportunities are still available!

Group Health Insurance for Kentucky Vegetable Growers

Do you offer health insurance benefits to your employees and want to see if you are getting the best price and coverage possible? Or, are you thinking about offering health insurance?

If you are a member of KVGA, you are most likely eligible through the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) to join the KY Ag Health Care Trust. Eligible horticulture businesses can access 21 different Anthem health insurance plans. If you have a horticulture-related business, have at least two employees (this can include yourself). This is a great benefit for small businesses that are currently offering or thinking about offering health benefits to employees. Joining the Plan gives you the purchasing power of a large group and this often results in access to better plans and better pricing.

Where do I start?

- Contact Melissa Hinton (The Hinton Agency; 859-351-6559) to fill out the paperwork to get started on a quote. Note: you will need to provide some specific details about your business and each employee.
- Review and analyze the quote to determine if this is a good option for your business.
- Complete paperwork and join KHC as an employer-member.

Several frequently asked questions are listed on the KHC website: <https://kyhortcouncil.org/khc-ag-health-care-trust/>. Other questions can be submitted to info@kyhortcouncil.org or info@kyvga.org or call 859-490-0889.

Get affordable health care for your business

You could save on an Anthem plan just for being a member of the Kentucky Horticulture Council

Choose from 21 different Anthem health insurance plans and additional benefits offered through Anthem and Delta Dental

Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, Telemedicine

Employers can offer comprehensive benefit plans with a minimum group size of 2. Call today for more information about eligibility and participation requirements.

Association Advantage Insurance Group
Cassie Grigsby
502-395-3390

The Hinton Agency
Melissa Hinton
859-351-6559

Additional Member Benefit at No Cost!

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company, an Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit and other no-cost offers are being provided to all members of Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association.

Learn more at MyBenefits.AILife.com

Enter access code: **SGNRM**

This is a solicitation for insurance. An AIL representative will contact members who return the reply card by mail or respond online to arrange a convenient time to deliver their certificate of coverage and other no cost offers and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available.



Amanda Cross, AIL Public Relations
859-229-5369 | ascross@AILife.com

KVGA Member Insurance Benefit

Did you know that as a member of KVGA, you have a no-cost **\$2,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment** benefit? This benefit is provided through KVGA and American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL).

Controlled Environment Agriculture in Kentucky

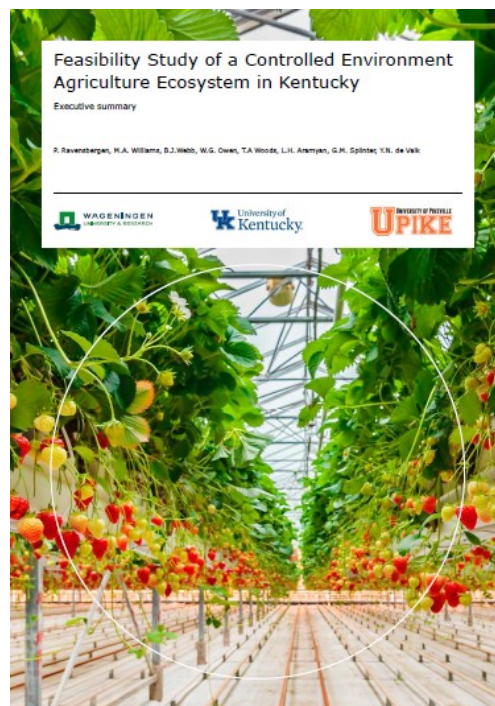
Researchers at Wageningen University, University of KY, and University of Pikeville have partnered to analyze the feasibility of a controlled environment agriculture (CEA) ecosystem in Kentucky.

CEA production systems include everything from hoop-covered rows of plants (minimal control) to greenhouses (intermediate control) to fully indoor growing systems (maximum control). In general, the more control over the growing conditions, the more technology is used.

The ecosystem concept focuses on more than just the individual operations growing crops and includes partners across the industry related to financing, building, maintaining, seeds, and inputs as well as the technology components needed for all scales of production.

As part of the study, 10 recommendations were made to accelerate and ensure success of CEA operations in Kentucky:

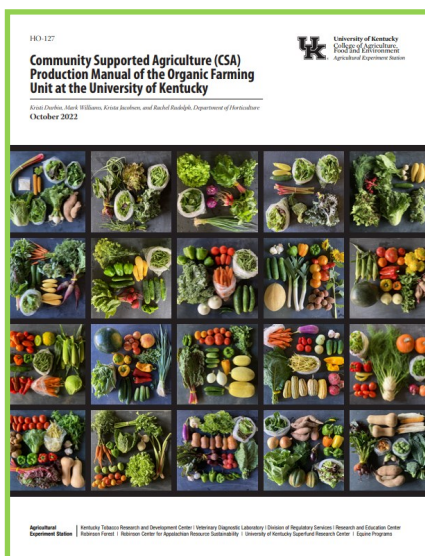
1. Establish a state-wide CEA industry development taskforce.
2. Establish a Kentucky greenhouse growers council.
3. Invest in and develop CEA research and development, extension, and innovation networks.
4. Invest in and develop CEA educational programs.
5. Establish a clear pathway for open field and mid-tech high tunnel growers to grow towards high-tech CEA production.
6. Encourage market development and value chain management for KY-based CEA firms through cooperation.
7. Develop a CEA workforce development plan in collaboration with the CEA industry development taskforce.
8. Develop and pursue a CEA spatial development strategy involving state and local agency partners.
9. Devise and plan for sustainability within Kentucky's CEA ecosystem.
10. Communicate the CEA story with society.



The [Executive Summary](#) and [Full Report](#) have been posted online:

<https://www.uky.edu/ccd/content/cea-feasibility-study>

The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) is hosting a grower roundtable to discuss the study and begin developing strategies to address some of the recommendations on Monday, January 16. If you are interested in participating, please call (859-490-0889) or email (info@kyhortcouncil.org).



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Production Manual

The University of Kentucky has recently released a production manual focused on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Although the model system described is organic, nearly all recommendations and tools are great for operations from conventional to certified organic production systems.

Download a copy:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/HO/HO127/HO127.pdf>

Download production manual workbooks (Excel spreadsheets):

<https://www.uky.edu/ccd/content/UK-organic-farm>

For a printed copy, check with your local Extension office about availability.

Upcoming Industry Events

2023 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Monday, Jan. 2 — Pre-Conference Events

Jan. 3-4 — Educational Sessions & Trade Show

Bowling Green, KY

2023 OAK Conference

Jan 26—28

Kentucky State University Research Farm

Frankfort, KY

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

