

# KVGA Newsletter

September 2023

Vol. 4. No. 3



As we approach the fall season, many growers are finished or nearing completion with their warm season crops. Although many grow cooler season crops, it's an opportune time to start planning for the next year, and one critical aspect of this planning is soil testing.

Here's why soil testing is vital and how to incorporate it into your horticultural preparations:

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## **Soil Testing for Future Planning:**

**Nutrient Assessment:** Soil testing provides valuable insights into the nutrient content of your soil. By knowing which nutrients are deficient or in excess, you can make informed decisions about fertilization and nutrient management for the upcoming season.

**pH Evaluation:** Soil pH affects nutrient availability to plants. Testing helps determine whether your soil is too acidic or alkaline, allowing you to adjust it as needed to optimize plant growth. Most vegetable crops prefer a pH of 6 – 7 but can usually tolerate 5.5 – 7.

**Salinity and Compaction:** Soil testing can identify issues related to salinity and compaction, both of which can impact root development and overall crop health. Addressing these problems in advance can improve soil structure. This is increasingly important in high tunnels and soil-based greenhouse systems.

**Customized Fertilization:** Using soil test results, you can tailor your fertilizer applications to meet your crop's specific nutrient requirements. This not only saves costs but also reduces the risk of over-fertilization, which can harm the environment.

## **Incorporating Soil Testing into Your Planning:**

**Early Testing:** Ideally, conduct soil testing in the fall or early winter to allow ample time for analysis and planning

*Continued on the following page*

## **KVGA Officers**

### President

Dr. Shubin Saha

Kentucky Fresh Harvest (Stanford)

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

### Vice President

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

### Secretary

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Cornett's Farm Fresh (London)

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

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McMaine's Riverhaven Farm (Salvisa)

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## **KVGA Board Members**

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David Neville, Capstone Produce Auction (Campbellsburg)

Brad Reid, Reid's Orchard (Owensboro)

Catherine Shake (Louisville)

Megan Sharpe, Homegrown Direct (Georgetown)

Kiristen Webb, Appalachian KY

Ben Wilson, Dragonfly Hollow Farm (Richmond)

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Ryan Burnette, Kentucky Department of Ag (Frankfort)

Sandi Deutsch, Deutsch Farm (Taylorsville)

Dr. Cindy Finneseth, Kentucky Horticulture Council (Lexington)

Dr. Annette Meyer-Heisdorffer, Daviess Co Extension (Owensboro)

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)

before the next planting season.

**Sample Collection:** Follow proper sampling techniques, ensuring that samples are representative of your entire field. Divide your field into manageable sections and collect samples from each section.

**Laboratory Analysis:** Send your soil samples to a reputable laboratory for analysis. They will provide you with a detailed report of nutrient levels, pH, and other important factors. Many of the county extension offices still provide this service for free, but if not it is still a good option to contact your county extension agent. Private labs available include Waters Ag Laboratories and A&L Laboratories.

**Interpretation:** Once you receive your soil test results, seek guidance from agricultural extension services or soil experts to interpret the findings and make appropriate recommendations.

**Fertilization Plan:** Develop a customized fertilization plan based on the soil test results. This plan should specify the types and quantities of fertilizers needed for each crop you intend to grow.

**Crop Rotation:** Use soil test information to guide your crop rotation decisions. Certain crops may have different nutrient requirements, so rotating crops strategically can help maintain soil health.

**Long-Term Soil Health:** Consider incorporating practices like cover cropping, organic matter additions, and reduced tillage to enhance soil health over the long term.

By including soil testing as part of your annual planning process, you can optimize your soil's health, improve crop yields, and practice sustainable agriculture. It's a proactive step toward ensuring the success and resilience of your farm in the coming years.

**Shubin Saha, DPM, PhD  
President,  
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association**



## CSA Innovation Network—Marketing Resources Survey

Do you offer a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscription? Many KY growers find it is a great way to connect with customers, providing incredibly fresh, healthy, seasonal food weekly, biweekly, or monthly. The CSA Innovation Network (<https://www.csainnovationnetwork.org/>) has some great grower resources.

The CSA Innovation Network wants to hear from you! They are looking for new ways to lift up and enhance marketing support for CSA farmers. Tell them what resources you already use, and where you see gaps that need to be filled.

Help sift through the weeds and collect great ready-to-share content all about CSA. Who are your favorite podcasters? Social media accounts? What do you share with friends & followers?

Take the brief survey here: <https://forms.gle/yum33A7BbCKXJhFu9>.

## Produce Recipes for Fall Vegetable Crops

Looking for recipes to share with customers? Plate it Up Kentucky Proud is a partnership project between the University of KY Cooperative Extension Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the University of KY School of Human Environmental Sciences. The project provides healthy, great tasting recipes using locally grown products.

You can find the list of recipes here: <https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/piukp-recipes>

### Pumpkin

Fall Spiced Pumpkin Bread  
Pumpkin Apple Muffins

### Sweet Potatoes

Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes  
Corn and Sweet Potato Confetti Salad  
Grilled Sweet Potatoes  
Hot and Sweet Frittata  
Nutty Sweet Potato Biscuits  
Roasted Root Vegetables  
Sweet Potato Crisp  
Yummy Sweet Potato Casserole

### Winter Squash

Butternut and Acorn Squash Soup  
Butternut Squash and Turkey Chili  
Butternut Squash Health Bars  
Cushaw Pie  
Glazed Butternut Squash with Carrots and Turnips  
Greek Style Spaghetti Squash  
Pumpkin Apple Muffins  
Sweet & Spicy Butternut Squash  
Tex Mex Spaghetti Squash Casserole  
Twice Baked Acorn Squash



## 2024 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference Save the Date



Mark your calendars!

The 2024 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference will be January 2-4 at the Slone Convention Center in Bowling Green, KY.

Please note that because of the New Years holiday, the Conference will be Wednesday (1/3) and Thursday (1/4), with set-up and pre-conference events on Tuesday (1/2).

More information coming soon!

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### UPDATE FROM UK VEGETABLE EXTENSION PROGRAM

#### NEW VIDEOS!

We have several newly-posted YouTube videos available for viewing. These videos cover our research projects from this spring and summer and also offer some general educational content on various topics. If you want to stay up to date on our videos, feel free to subscribe to our YouTube channel.

2023 Video Field Day Overview of Research: <https://youtu.be/6fcxZZoQgJQ>

Use of Essential Oils for Insect Management in Brassica Crops: <https://youtu.be/YMr3jNDi4GM>

Lettuce Drop Research Project Update: <https://youtu.be/VsNvA7qrTf4>

Benefits of Soil Solarization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DH4lY-8IdNk>

How to Solarize the Soil (an instructional video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB2G3E0OPsU>

Steps for Successful Transplanting: [https://youtu.be/5KH\\_e8ONw3Y](https://youtu.be/5KH_e8ONw3Y)

Calculations for Small Acreage Pesticide Applications: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjS2dk3GwG0>

Sanitation for Disease and Pest Management: [https://youtu.be/zhNc-5\\_sGBI](https://youtu.be/zhNc-5_sGBI)

We have also created a playlist so you can view all the videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQEQoZRMbybJzhDQQs0QF9j6eTIAmkq7C>

#### NEW PUBS!

There are two new publications that may be of interest to vegetable growers.

Bajek V, Munir M, and Rudolph RE. 2023. Soil census of Kentucky high tunnels reveals statewide distribution of two *Meloidogyne* species.

This paper discusses the results of three years of soil sampling across Kentucky in which we collected soil from high tunnels and looked for root-knot nematode. Thank you to the growers and county agents who assisted with this project! Plant Health Progress <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHP-05-23-0052-S>

Bajek V and Rudolph RE. 2023. Managing southern root-knot nematode in Kentucky high tunnels using grafted tomato. HortScience 58(6):704-713.

This paper discusses the results of on-farm experiments in which we evaluated several grafted tomato cultivars for yield and management of root-knot nematode populations. Thank you to the growers who participated in this project and allowed us to conduct research on their farms. The pdf for this paper is available to download here: <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI17141-23>

Rachel Rudolph (Rachel.Rudolph@uky.edu)  
Vegetable Specialist

Nicole Gauthier (NGauthier@uky.edu)  
Plant Pathology Specialist

## NEW GRAD STUDENT JOINS UK VEG CROP PROGRAM!

The Rudolph Lab welcomes a new graduate student, Luize Lessmann.

Luize's research focuses on soil solarization as a sustainable management method for pests, pathogens, and weeds in high tunnels. Her project is part of the recently funded Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SSARE) grant led by Rachel Rudolph.

Welcome,  
Luize!



## KSU Regional Water Testing Labs

Kentucky State University (KSU) has opened regional water testing labs for growers interested in having their production and post-harvest ag water sources tested. This program is voluntary and can help growers comply with requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FSMA PSR).

Labs are operating in Bowling Green (Warren Co), Hodgenville (LaRue Co), Frankfort (Franklin Co), and Whitesburg (Letcher Co). Testing for *E. coli* in surface and ground water samples is free to Kentucky growers and results are available approximately 1 week after sample submission. The results can be used for your Farm Food Safety Plan, Ag Water Quality Plan, and other certification programs.

For more information about scheduling a time to drop off samples, contact: Kevin Gurtowski ([kevin.gurtowski@kysu.edu](mailto:kevin.gurtowski@kysu.edu)) or John Thomas ([john.thomas1@kysu.edu](mailto:john.thomas1@kysu.edu)).

### UK Veg Crops Social Media

#### Facebook

KY Fruit & Veg Extension - <https://www.facebook.com/KYFruitVegExtension/>  
Diseases of Vegetables, Fruit, & Hemp - <https://www.facebook.com/KYPlantDisease/>  
UK REC Hort - <https://www.facebook.com/people/Ukrec-Hort-Group/100057676561088/>  
Ag Weather - <https://www.facebook.com/ukagweather>  
UK Robinson Center - <https://www.facebook.com/ukrobinsoncenter/>  
University of Kentucky Ag Programs - <https://www.facebook.com/UKANR/>  
Center for Crop Diversification - <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforCropDiversification>

#### Instagram

KY Fruit & Veg Extension - @KY\_Fruit\_Veg\_Extension  
University of Kentucky Vegetable Crops Extension & Research - @uky\_veg\_crops

#### Twitter

KY Fruit & Veg Extension - @KYFruit\_VegExt [https://twitter.com/KYFruit\\_VegExtn](https://twitter.com/KYFruit_VegExtn)  
KY Plant Disease - @KYPlantDisease <https://twitter.com/kyplantdisease?lang=en>  
UKY Entomology Extension Specialist, Dr. Jonathan Larson - @bugmanjon <https://twitter.com/bugmanjon>  
UK Extension - @UKExtension <https://twitter.com/ukextension?lang=en>  
UK Ag Weather Center - @UKAGweather <https://twitter.com/ukagweather?lang=en>  
Southern IPM Center - @southernipm <https://twitter.com/southernipm?lang=en>

#### YouTube

Kentucky Vegetable Crops Extension & Research – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6JyU2Fdo3Yvml4y7LF0M4A>  
Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Extension – Nicole Gauthier, Plant Disease - <https://www.youtube.com/c/NicoleGauthier>

## UK Extension Resources for Commercial Vegetable Production

The University of Kentucky Vegetable Extension team provides numerous resources for commercial vegetable growers regarding production and pest management. The following list details the resources provided by University of Kentucky specialists in horticulture, entomology, and plant pathology.

### College of Agriculture Publications

Ag Communications - <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs.asp>

### Departmental Websites (*publications, fact sheets, videos*)

Ag Economics - <http://agecon.ca.uky.edu/extension>

Biosystems Engineering (Ag Weather) - <http://weather.uky.edu/>

Center for Crop Diversification - <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/>

Entomology - <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/entfacts/>

Horticulture - <https://www.uky.edu/hort/documents-list-commercial-fruit-nut>

Forestry - <http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/wildlife>

Plant Pathology - <http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

Plant and Soil Sciences - <https://pss.ca.uky.edu/extension15>

### Newsletters

KY Pest News - <https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/>

### Email Alert Listserv, Vegetables

Subscribe at [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cCtU7usSqWbyZq6](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCtU7usSqWbyZq6)

### Vegetable-Specific Websites

Mobile version of Vegetable Scouting Guides – <https://veggiescout.ca.uky.edu/>

Vegetable Crops Extension & Research Website - <https://vegacrops.ca.uky.edu/>

Plant Pathology Vegetable Extension Publications – <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications#VegetableCrops>

### Lab Services

Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (free) submit samples through county Extension offices

Soil Testing (fees vary) submit through county extension offices - <https://www.rs.uky.edu/soil/redirect.php>

Food Systems - <https://fsic.ca.uky.edu/>

### County Agents

UK Extension Service - <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/county>

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## KY Proud Fall CSA Fair



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offers consumers the chance to connect to local farms and farmers, providing incredibly fresh, healthy, seasonal food weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

Between September 18-22, join Kentucky Proud and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Organic Association of Kentucky, and The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky highlighting CSA offerings from partner farms!

Follow KY Proud Fall CSA Week by becoming a member of the CSA in Kentucky Facebook Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kycsafair>

Visit the KY Proud CSA Directory, <https://www.kyproud.com/.../community-supported-agriculture>. If you need to be listed as a local farm offering a CSA program, contact KDA to be included in the listing.

## USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC)

Is your farm third-party audited for food safety practices? You may be eligible for expenses in 2023 related to developing a food safety plan, maintaining or updating a food safety plan, certification, fees, testing, and training expenses. The deadline to apply for the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) is January 31, 2024.



For more info, including eligibility, check out USDA's info page: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/food-safety>



### Kentucky Fruit and Veggie Growers:

## *Are you considering new markets that require GAPs certification? We can help!*

**Audit Preparation:** Bryan Brady with UK's Cultivate Kentucky Program is an excellent technical assistance resource for understanding audit requirements, developing a farm food safety plan, and preparing for an on-farm audit. The success rate for farms working with Bryan is 100%. This program has no fee for KY farms.

**Cost-Share Program:** The Kentucky Horticulture Council has a cost-share program to help growers recover a portion of the audit fees. Any Kentucky producer completing the third-party GAPs produce audit in 2020 may participate in the KHC Cost Share Program. Cost share will be 75% of the audit cost up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,250.

For more information about these programs contact:

Bryan Brady  
Cultivate Kentucky

[Bryan.Brady@uky.edu](mailto:Bryan.Brady@uky.edu)

859-323-0417

<https://foodconnection.ca.uky.edu/content/cultivate-kentucky>

Cindy Finneseth  
Kentucky Horticulture Council

[Info@kyhortcouncil.org](mailto:Info@kyhortcouncil.org)

859-490-0889

<https://kyhortcouncil.org/khc-cost-share-programs/>

**Tell me more about GAPs.** Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) is a national voluntary third-party audit program that verifies the audited farm is producing, packaging, handling and storing fruits and vegetables using safe practices to minimize food safety hazards. Several retail and wholesale buyers require producers have third-party audit verification to ensure growers are conforming to the best agricultural practices for food production.



## USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP)

The Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) offers \$2.2 billion dollars in financial assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers and landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA lending programs.

The deadline to apply for DFAP is October 31st!

Black Soil KY, in partnership with The Windsor Group LLC, USDA Farm Service Agency and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering FREE in person workshops across Kentucky.

Producers are invited to register for a workshop in their local community — Somerset, Elizabethtown, Hopkinsville and Winchester — to secure their seat, light refreshments and workshop materials.

Morning and evening sessions are offered for each workshop date: 9:00 am-11:00 am or 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Register at [www.blacksoilky.com](http://www.blacksoilky.com)!

### SERIES SCHEDULE

#### **ELIZABETHTOWN**

Thursday, September 14

Hardin County Cooperative Extension Office

[Morning Session](#)      [Evening Session](#)

#### **HOPKINSVILLE**

Thursday, September 21

Christian County Cooperative Extension Office

[Morning Session](#)      [Evening Session](#)

#### **WINCHESTER**

Thursday, September 28

Clark County Cooperative Extension Office

[Morning Session](#)      [Evening Session](#)



You are invited to a free workshop discussing the new USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) hosted in your local community.

#### **Workshop Topics:**

- Overview of Discrimination Financial Assistance Program
- Eligibility to Apply
- Application Process
- Frequently Asked Questions

**COST: FREE**

#### **REGISTRATION:**

[blacksoilky.com/events](http://blacksoilky.com/events)



#### **Workshop Schedule:**

##### • **SOMERSET**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th**  
Somerset Community College  
808 Monticello Street Somerset, KY  
Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM-11:00AM  
Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM-8:00PM

##### • **ELIZABETHTOWN**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th**  
Hardin County Extension Office  
111 Opportunity Way Elizabethtown, KY  
Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM-11:00AM  
Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM-8:00PM

##### • **HOPKINSVILLE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**  
Christian County Extension Office  
2850 Pembroke Rd. Hopkinsville, KY  
Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM-11:00AM  
Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM-8:00PM

##### • **WINCHESTER**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th**  
Clark County Extension Office  
1400 Fortune Drive Winchester, KY  
Morning Session (local time): 9:00AM-11:00AM  
Evening Session (local time): 6:00PM-8:00PM

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Ashley.smith@windsorgroupllc.net  
(859)312-7877



You can schedule an appointment to receive DFAP training for your staff [HERE](#).

#### **IMPORTANT DFAP LINKS**

[Discrimination Financial Assistance Program](#): application, FAQ, etc.

[Book an In Person DFAP Appointment](#): in person technical assistance, virtual appointments, post submission technical assistance

[Workshop Series Registrations](#): 4 tour stops for a free series of DFAP technical assistance workshops.



## October is Farm to School Month!

All month long, celebrate food education, school gardens and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients.

Be part of the celebration with the KY Farm to School Network:

<https://www.facebook.com/KYF2SNetwork>



### Save the Date: KY Local Food Systems Summit

The 6th annual Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit will be held in Lexington on March 20, 2024.

This event is designed to bring together local food systems stakeholders from across Kentucky who are committed to learning and collaborating to strengthen our local food and farm economy.

The summit is co-hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky, in partnership with Bluegrass Farm to Table, and the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development.



### Save the Date: Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference

This annual conference is an opportunity for eastern Kentucky farmers to attend trainings, network, and learn. In 2024, the Conference will be in Morehead, KY, February 16-17, 2024.

Follow the conference planners on Facebook for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternKYFarmerConference>

## Growing Your Farm and Food Business Workshops

This November and December, the KY Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) is bringing back the Growing Your Farm and Food Business workshops!

Two in-person opportunities in Caldwell County on November 9th and Clay County on November 14th and a two-part virtual workshop in the evenings on December 5th and 7th.

Follow KCARD on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyCenterforAg>) for registration info that will be shared soon!



**GROWING YOUR FARM AND FOOD BUSINESS WORKSHOPS**

Join KCARD staff and partners for a workshop focused on how to grow your agribusiness with topics including business planning, funding, and more!

November 9th Caldwell County	November 14th Clay County	December 5th & 7th Virtual
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 Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

## Developing Your Value-Added Marketing Strategy Workshop

Catch this short course focused on developing effective value-added marketing strategies. Cheese will be used as an example, but content can be easily applied to produce value-added products.

Individual sessions will be held in KY, as well as TN and NC. Workshop is open to all value-added producers and technical assistance providers.

### WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Crafting Your Marketing Strategy
- Communicating the Value of Your Product to Consumers
- Product and Brand Perceptions
- Packaging and Pricing Considerations

Interactive Sensory Analysis Component

### DATE, TIME AND LOCATION:

**October 24th, 2023** – E.S Good Barn, 1451 University Dr, Lexington, KY 40503 (Register by 10/16/23 at 5:00 pm Central)

**October 25th, 2023** – WKU Hilltopper Creamery & Farm Market, 406 Elrod Rd, Bowling Green, KY 42104 (Register by 10/17/23 at 5:00 pm Central)

All sessions will be held from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM local time.

### REGISTRATION:

Register online at <https://tiny.utk.edu/VAMReg>.



### DEVELOPING YOUR VALUE-ADDED MARKETING STRATEGY



**October 16 - 25, 2023**

An SDBII short course focused on developing effective value-added marketing strategies using cheese as an example.

Individual sessions to be held in TN, KY, and NC. Open to all value-added producers and technical assistance providers.

#### Workshop Topics Include:

- Crafting Your Marketing Strategy
- Communicating the Value of Your Product to Consumers
- Product and Brand Perceptions
- Packaging and Pricing Considerations
- Interactive Sensory Analysis Component

**For more information, contact Alaina Boyd at [acboyd@tennessee.edu](mailto:acboyd@tennessee.edu) or visit [tiny.utk.edu/CPAEvents](https://tiny.utk.edu/CPAEvents)**



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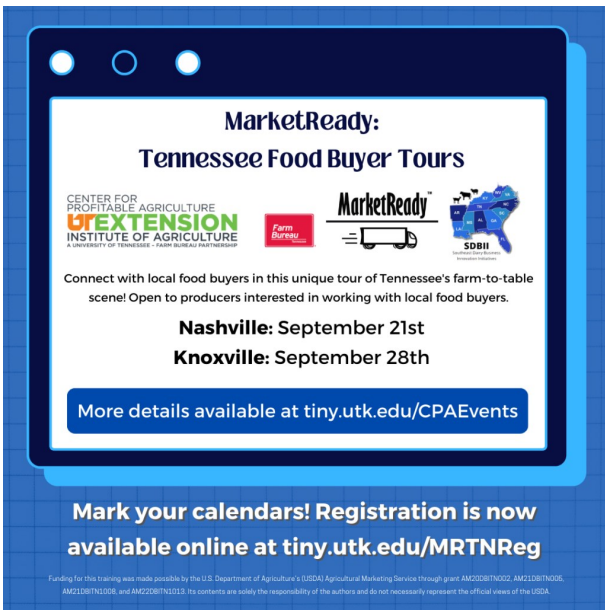
### QUESTIONS?

Contact Alaina Boyd at 931-486-2777 ext 126

or

[acboyd@tennessee.edu](mailto:acboyd@tennessee.edu).

## MarketReady Buyer Tours in Nashville and Knoxville, TN



The flyer is titled "MarketReady: Tennessee Food Buyer Tours". It features logos for the Center for Profitable Agriculture Extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau, MarketReady, and SDBII. The text invites local producers and farm retailers to connect with food buyers in a unique tour of Tennessee's farm-to-table scene. It lists two dates: Nashville on September 21st and Knoxville on September 28th. A blue button at the bottom says "More details available at [tiny.utk.edu/CPAEvents](https://tiny.utk.edu/CPAEvents)". At the bottom of the flyer, it says "Mark your calendars! Registration is now available online at [tiny.utk.edu/MRTNReg](https://tiny.utk.edu/MRTNReg)".

Are you close to Nashville or Knoxville, TN? Local producers and farm retailers are invited to connect with food buyers in a unique tour of the Nashville (September 21) and Knoxville (September 28) farm-to-table scenes!

These buyer tours will serve as an opportunity to explore unique food buyer opportunities in the Nashville and Knoxville areas and are open to all value-added producers interested in learning more about working with local food buyers in the wholesale and retail spaces.

Registration is free, but preregistration is required. An individual registration form must be completed for each person attending the tour.

Please register here: <https://tiny.utk.edu/MRTNReg>.

If you plan to attend both tours, please indicate on your registration form.

### Registration Details:

**September 21 Nashville** – Meet at University of Tennessee Central Region Extension Office, 5201 Marchant Drive, Nashville, TN 37211 (DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS 9/14/23 AT 5 PM CENTRAL TIME)

**September 28 Knoxville** – Meet at University of Tennessee Eastern Region Extension Office, 1801 Downtown West Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37919 (DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS 9/21/23 AT 5 PM CENTRAL TIME)

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## MarketReady Buyer Tour in Louisville, KY

On October 12, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, the MarketReady Program at the University of Kentucky is hosting a Buyer Tour in Louisville.

**Tour Information:** During the tour, the group will visit 3 or 4 buyers in the Louisville area to see what happens behind the back doors! Buyers are to-be-determined and will include a restaurant, a grocery/retail market, and a farm-to-school buyer.

The Buyer Tour allows growers and producers to get a behind-the-scenes look at what happens at these various marketplaces. Growers and producers can ask questions, talk with buyers, and get first-hand experience with what it is like to sell to a restaurant, grocery/retail store, or farm-to-school buyer.

**Cost:** This event will be free-of-charge but does require an RSVP. Because this tour is limited on available seats — make sure to secure your spot today!

**Logistics:** The tour will start at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Office on Bunsen Parkway. The tour will begin promptly at 9 am. From the Office, the group will be carpooling [it is optional, but transportation will be provided] to each buyer location. You can drive yourself if you wish. Lunch will be provided and sourced from a local restaurant. We will end the tour at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Office at 3 pm.

**Parking:** The Kentucky Farm Bureau Office (9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, KY 40220) is letting the group use their space for a meet-up, so please be courteous and park in the spaces farther away from the front door.

**Reservations:** <https://marketready.uky.edu/events/buyertourlou2023>



## 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.
- Access to 20 different Anthem health care plans through the **KY Ag Health Care Trust**.
- \$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/>
- Free postings on the KHC **Trading Post** electronic bulletin board (<https://kyhortcouncil.org/trading-post/>)
- Free **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.

### 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](https://www.mybenefits.aillife.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  
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## GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWERS!

The call for proposal for Producer Grants through Southern SARE is now open!

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education funds grants for growers to conduct their own research. The deadline for submitting a proposal is November 10.

To learn more about this program, follow this link: <https://southern.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/producer-grants/>



## Grant Support for Growers

Did you know the Agribusiness Grant Facilitation Program (AGFP) of the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) helps Kentucky agribusinesses learn about and apply for funding?

With the support of business planning and technical assistance available through KCARD, the program is able to help hard-working applicants put together strong grant applications.

KCARD frequently assists growers with:

- identifying funding options;
- determining eligibility for grant programs;
- working through required registrations;
- understanding the grant requirements; and
- reviewing grant applications.

For more information, check out KCARD's AGFP website:

<https://www.kcard.info/find-funding>

## Upcoming Industry Events

9/5 — OAK Field Day (Scottsville)

9/19 — CSA Production, Packing, and Planning Field Day (Independence)

9/21 — MarketReady Buyer Tour (Nashville, TN)

9/28 — MarketReady Buyer Tour (Knoxville, TN)

October — National Farm to School Month

10/12 — MarketReady Buyer Tour (Louisville)

11/9 — GrowerBuyer MeetUp (TBD)

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

2024 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Jan. 2 — Pre-Conference Events

Jan. 3-4 — Educational Sessions & Trade Show

