

KVGA Newsletter



June 2024

Vol. 5 No. 2

As summer finally heats up after an unusually cool spell, most of your warm-season crops should be in the ground and nearing fruit set. Now is the perfect time to focus on preventing arthropod pests and foliar diseases. While a wet spring hinted at potential foliar disease issues, the forecasted drier summer should help reduce this risk. However, these dry conditions favor insects and mites, particularly two-spotted spider mites. Typically, mite pressure starts in early July, but with the warmer, drier weather, they may appear earlier. Keep this in mind as the season progresses.

We know how busy this time is for everyone in agriculture. However, we have an exciting opportunity for you to shape the future: we're calling for proposals for the 2025 Annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Check the link in this edition and share your ideas and suggestions for speaker topics.

In this issue:

2025 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference Save the Date

KVGA Board Update

2025 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference Call for Proposals

Vegetable Production Resources in Spanish

What's in Season Produce Resources

UK Vegetable Crops Extension Update

UK Veg Crops Extension Social Media Links

Workforce Development Survey

Weed Management Reminders

Resources for Commercial Vegetable Growers

Business of Blooms Short Course

Ag Drone Day

Tech Tuesday Series

KSU Small Farms Programs for Veg Growers

AgVets Field Day Save-the-Date

Review of KVGA Member Benefits

KSU Regional Water Testing Labs

Grant Support for Specialty Crop Growers

Upcoming Events

In this newsletter, we also highlight several new extension publications, now available in Spanish for better accessibility. Additionally, we have new materials on post-harvest vegetable production and updated spray schedules for various crops. Don't miss the information on an educational opportunity about implementing drone usage in agriculture, provided by Kentucky State University.

Lastly, this is the final issue of the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Newsletter. We'll soon be sending out a survey to gather your preferences on how you'd like to receive information in the future. Wishing you all a prosperous and successful growing season.

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

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Travis Cleaver, Cleav's Family Farm (Hodgenville)

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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

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

KVGA Advisors

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)

2025 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Save the Date

Mark your calendars! The

2025 Kentucky Fruit &

Vegetable Conference will

be January 5-7 in Lexington, KY at the Marriott

Griffin Gate on Newtown Pike. The Conference will

be Monday (1/6) and Tuesday (1/7), with set-up and

pre-conference events on Sunday (1/5).



KVGA Board Update

The KVGA Board met March 11 in Bardstown,

KY to discuss the organization's business.

Following approval of the minutes and Treasurer's

Report, old and new business was discussed,

including strategies for recruiting younger

members and a student poster contest at the annual

conference. Member benefits and the Kentucky

Horticulture Research Initiative (KHRI) were also

discussed. Cindy Finneseth gave an update from

the Kentucky Horticulture Council and new board

members were selected.

Following the KVGA session, officers and board

members met with the Kentucky Society for

Horticulture Science (KSHS; fruit growers) to

discuss the annual Fruit & Vegetable Conference.

The 2025 meeting will be in Lexington at the

Marriott Griffin Gate, on Monday — Tuesday,

January 6-7, with pre-conference events on

Sunday, January 5. The planning committee is

very interested in suggestions from growers for

the educational sessions, vendors to participate in

the trade show, and potential sponsors to help

keep meeting costs low for growers. To cover

increases in meeting costs, meeting registration

will increase in 2025. Sponsor packets will be

available by the first of August.

KVGA encourages all members to contact any of

the officers or board members with ideas to

improve the services offered by the organization.

2025 KENTUCKY FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Consider submitting a proposal for an educational presentation to share your knowledge, passion, and innovation with Kentucky produce growers!

JANUARY 5-7, 2025
LEXINGTON, KY



SUBMIT A PROPOSAL BY
JULY 1, 2024 AT
[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/25FVCallforProposals)
/R/25FVCallforProposals

Vegetable Production Resources Available in Spanish

Would you or your employees benefit from educational resources translated into Spanish? The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) is working on translating key documents into Spanish and is interested to know what other resources you'd like to see translated. Please send suggestions to Dani Zwischenberger at Dani.Z@kyhortcouncil.org.

¿Se beneficiarían usted o sus empleados de los recursos educativos en español? Consulte los siguientes documentos y díganos qué otros recursos le gustaría ver traducidos.

Imagínese esto: Has pasado horas y horas trabajando en el campo. Has preparado las camas, plantado las semillas, transplantado, regado, y cuidado los cultivos. Ahora es el momento de la cosecha. No deje que unos pequeños errores destruyan el producto bonito. Esta serie de Hojas Informativas sobre las Prácticas Seguras de Poscosecha irá cultivo por cultivo con consejos y trucos para mantener sus verduras frescas - desde el campo hasta el plato de su cliente.

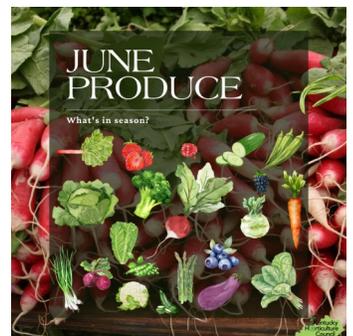
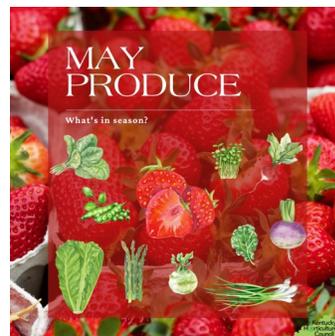
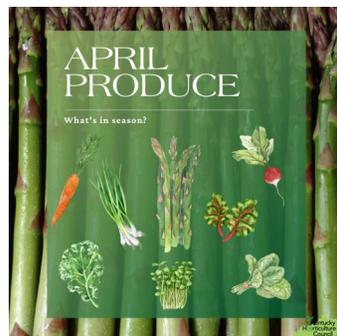
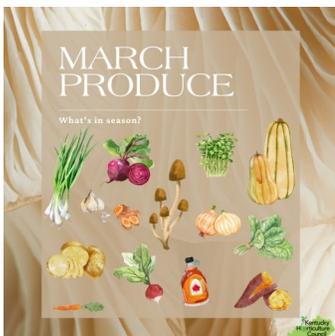
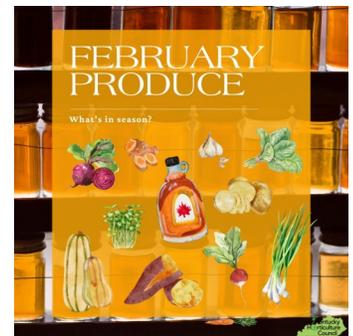
Prácticas Seguras de Poscosecha
de *Rabano*

- 1** Coseche los rábanos cuando la parte superior de las raíces tenga un diámetro de 1 a 1.5 pulgadas y esté libre de enfermedades o insectos. Los rábanos demasiado maduros pueden ser blandos o esponjosos.
- 2** Tiene que enfriarse con agua o aire forzado o empacarse en hielo inmediatamente después de la cosecha de los rábanos para controlar la temperatura.
- 3** La temperatura óptima de conservación es 32°F con 95-100% de humedad relativa. No congelar. La congelación produce daños cuando se almacena a 30.5°F o menos.
- 4** Los rábanos que se enfrían y guardan bien pueden mantener su calidad de 7 a 14 días con las hojas y de 21 a 28 días sin las hojas.
- 5** Las hojas cortadas pueden durar 3 días si se guardan bien.

Este documento pretende ser una guía. Siga siempre las normas y reglamentos de su programa de auditoría de tercera parte "GAP" y/o los requisitos de su mercado.

What's in Season Graphics

Each month, the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) publishes a "What's in Season" graphic showing what fresh produce is currently available from local farms. If you would like to use these resources in marketing your produce, or your local farmers market, just contact Bethany Cox (Bethany@kyhortcouncil.org) for electronic files of these colorful graphics



UPDATE FROM UK VEGETABLE EXTENSION

NEW UK EXTENSION POST-HARVEST PUBLICATIONS

In collaboration with Dani Zwischenberger of the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC), we've been working on creating post-harvest handling factsheets for growers to reference. These factsheets are one page with a lot of photos and can be put up as posters for farm crew to reference. Factsheets are available in both English and Spanish.

There are currently eight factsheets that cover information for lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, radish, beets, and strawberries.

Check out all the factsheets here: <https://kyhortcouncil.org/post-harvest-handling/>



UK EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Based on requests from growers and county agents, we have been able to get several vegetable Extension resources translated to Spanish. The following publications are available online:

Guía de Monitoreo de MIP para Plagas Comunes de los Cultivos de Solanáceas en Kentucky (IPM Scouting Guide for Solanaceous Crops)

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID172s/ID172s.pdf>

Guía de Monitoreo de MIP para Problemas Comunes del Maíz Dulce (Elote) en Kentucky (IPM Scouting Guide for Sweet Corn)

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID184S/ID184S.pdf>

Guía de Monitoreo de MIP para Plagas Comunes de los Cultivos de Coles en Kentucky (IPM Scouting Guide for Cole Crops)

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID216S/ID216S.pdf>

Guía de Monitoreo de MIP para Plagas Comunes de los Cultivos de Legumbres en Kentucky (IPM Scouting Guide for Legumes)

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID227S/ID227S.pdf>

Guía de Monitoreo de MIP para Problemas Comunes en Cultivos de Vegetales en Túnel e Invernaderos en Kentucky (IPM Scouting Guide High Tunnels and Greenhouses)

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID235S/ID235S.pdf>

Mildiu Polvoriento (Powdery Mildew)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/PPFS-GEN-02-S.pdf>

Pudrición Temprana de Vegetales y Ornamentales Herbáceas (Damping Off of Vegetables and Ornamentals)

<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/PPFS-GEN-03-S.pdf>

List of publications continues on following page

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_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>



 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Extension team is working on creating accessible resources for workforces on Kentucky farms specific to plant diseases. Looking for better trainings on pesticide usage or sanitation? Found gaps in the resources available through Extension? Take a moment to fill out the survey below to help us serve your needs as Kentucky growers!

For questions, comments, or to find out when these resources will become available, contact aprilelamb@uky.edu.



Survey link:
uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cw47tvpY9HhqWlg

Weed Management Reminders — keep up the weed work!

Once the summer crops are planted, growers will still need to be thinking about weed management. If you put down a pre-emergent herbicide you will still need to be vigilant. Depending on rainfall and product chemistry you can expect 4- 6 weeks of good control assuming that you do not break that herbicide barrier in the soil. As soon as you disturb that herbicide layer you will get weeds breaking through. Effective weed control is crucial for maintaining a productive and healthy vegetable crop because any weeds will compete with the crop for sunlight, water, and nutrients, potentially reducing yields and weeds may also serve as alternative hosts for insects and diseases that can effect your vegetable crop. You don't make money killing weeds though. The focus should be on maintaining a healthy crop. A healthy planting is one of the most effective weed management tools you can have particularly with crops with dense canopies like pumpkins.

You can consider mechanical weed management tools but know your weeds. There are perennial weeds like yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*), Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) that can reproduce by nutlets and rhizomes. Cultivating these types of weeds can make the situation worse by spreading the weed infestation further in the field. Mowing is an important weed management tool for fencerows and field edges to prevent the spread of weeds into a clean field.



Yellow nutsedge roots, rhizomes, and tubers. Photo: Steve Dewey (Utah State University), via Bugwood.org.

Post-emergent Herbicides can also be used if they are labelled for the crop during the summertime, but make sure to read the label so that you know the crop and the weed are present on the label, and also focus on the pre-harvest interval (PHI) and any rotation restrictions. Some of the corn herbicides particularly have long replant restrictions limiting how soon you can go back into that field with anything other than corn or another grass crop. Make sure you know what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required and use it. The label is the law! Companies employ teams of lawyers to write the labels for your protection and theirs.

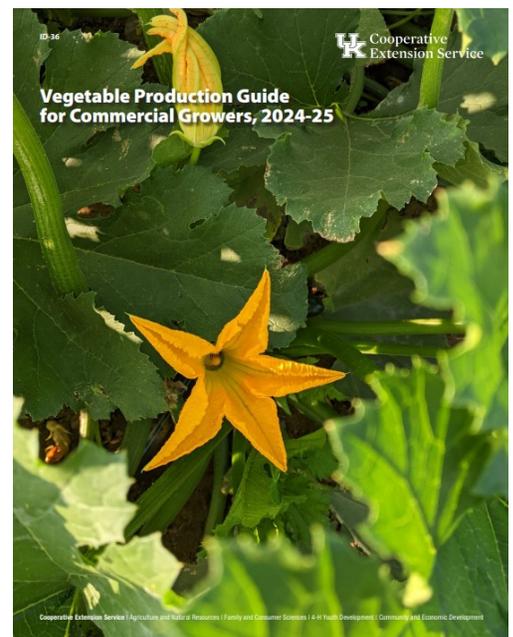


Johnsongrass rhizomes. Photo: University of Missouri Extension.

If you have questions refer to [ID-36 the Commercial Vegetable Production Guide](#), the company websites, and your County Agent. While we try to keep everyone updated on pesticide registrations the company websites have the most current label. If you do check the internet and see that something is labelled in an adjacent state, don't assume it is labelled in Kentucky. Kentucky is in the transition zone between the Southeast, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Midwest. Pesticide longevity and breakdown is effected by climate and companies often have restrictions that vary depending on where you are using them particularly for herbicides.

To check to see if a pesticide is labelled in Kentucky check the National Pesticide Information Retrieval System <https://www.npirs.org/state/> or the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Shawn Wright, University of Kentucky Extension Specialist



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

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>



The Business of Blooms Short Course

Have you added cut flowers to your vegetable production or thinking about it? Next month, on Monday, July 8, the Kentucky Horticulture Council and the University of Kentucky are hosting a short course—the Business of Blooms: Floral Design & New Marketing Strategies for Cut Flower Growers. Sessions will cover photography tips for flowers and floral designs, contracts and proposals, sustainable design and marketing, floral design basics, and tips and tricks for advanced design. More details and registration information can be found online, [at this link!](#)

Ag Drones Workshop

Visit the KSU farm in Frankfort on Tuesday, July 9 for a special training to learn how agricultural drones can help Kentucky producers more efficiently manage land, crops, and livestock!

Attendees will get to fly drones and hear from a variety of specialists and commercial business owners on how this exciting technology can be leveraged for your business. Whether you are interested in simple scouting and aerial imagery of your farm or want to expand into commercial drone applications, this training is for you!

Tuesday, July 9th from 1pm to 5pm (ET) at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln, in Frankfort, KY.

[Click on this link](#) for more details and to register for this free event.



The poster features a drone flying over a green field under a blue sky. A large green arrow graphic points upwards and to the right. The text is centered and includes the event title, date, time, and location. Logos for Tech Tuesday, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Kentucky State University, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Veteran Drone Services, and Kentucky AgVets are listed on the right side.

AG DRONE DAY
Tuesday, July 9th
1pm-5pm ET

Join us for an afternoon training to learn how agricultural drones can help Kentucky producers more efficiently manage land, crops, and livestock!

Kentucky State University
Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm
1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, Ky 40601

Logos: TECH TUESDAY, Kentucky Horticulture Council, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, VETERAN DRONE SERVICES, KENTUCKY AGVETS

Tech Tuesdays Series

Have you been joining the Tech Tuesday webinars? If not, the content has been recorded and sessions are available on YouTube (access the full playlist [using this link](#)). Topics covered so far:

Improving Your Integrated Pest Management Strategy

Greenhouse Sensors and Remote Monitoring Devices

Grower Feature: West Kentucky Aquaponics

Horticultural Lighting Solutions

Exploring Fertilizer Injectors

UV-C Lighting and Greenhouse Automation

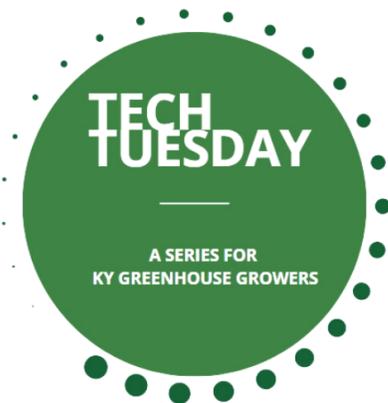
AgLaunch Farm-Centric Innovation Model

Topics scheduled:

Hydroponic Strawberry Operations (June 25)

Marketing Strategies for Season Extension (July 2)

Optimizing Greenhouse Crop Growth with Corvus Drones (July 16)



KSU Small Farms Program Support

The Kentucky State University Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families (KSU-CSFF) offers programs that support small-scale vegetable producers. Two programs — the small scale farm grant and the farmer education program — are highlighted below:

SMALL SCALE FARM GRANT

A small-scale farm is one that sells less than \$250,000 of agricultural products each year. Farmers may be eligible for funding projects up to \$5,000 per application (with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000). The Small-Scale Farm Grant is available for operations in the following priority areas:

Value-Added Enterprise

Certified Organic Agriculture

Agroforestry/Specialty Crops

Food Systems Resiliency

Emerging Agricultural Technologies (EAT)

The next application deadlines are August 1, October 1, and December 1). More information is available on [the program website](#). Grant funding decisions are based upon the impact expected on the production and sales of Kentucky-grown or Kentucky-raised farm products.

If you do not meet the eligibility requirements at this time, please contact:

Joni Nelson (joni.nelson@kysu.edu) or Kevin Gurtowski (kevin.gurtowski@kysu.edu)

FARMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program is for producers interested in specific training to improve the marketability of their ag products and interested in new ventures that require training for on-site implementation. Special considerations are made for:

- limited-resource farmers (annual household income < \$23,000)
- small acreage producers
- female farmers
- minority farmers
- residents of USDA-designated food-insecure counties
- SOAR county residents: <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/appalachia-proud-ky.html>
- Grantees must comply with all health, food safety, and other federal, state, and local laws.



All KY veterans and active duty service members interested in agriculture are invited to attend and participate in program activities.

For More information about the KY AgVets program, visit the [program website](#).

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

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.

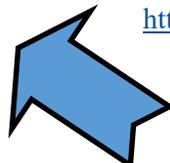
Learn more at MyBenefits.AILife.com

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



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) or John Thomas (john.thomas1@kysu.edu).

Grant Support for Produce 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>

Be watching your mail for an updated letter about the AIL member benefit!

Upcoming Industry Events

June 18	OAK Field Day (Liberty)
June 25	Tech Tuesday: Hydroponic Strawberry Operations (Virtual)
July 2	Tech Tuesday: Marketing Strategies for Season Extension (Virtual)
July 8	Cut Flower Design Workshop (Elizabethtown)
July 9	Ag Drone Day (Frankfort)
July 9	OAK Field Day (Berea)
July 16	Tech Tuesday: Optimizing Greenhouse Crop Growth with Corvus Drones (Virtual)
August 3	Ag Vets Summer Outing (Hopkinsville)
August 15-25	Kentucky State Fair (Louisville)
August 16-18	People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture: Food Vision 2030 (Louisville)
September 13	People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture: Food Vision 2030 (Louisville)
September 17	Post-harvest Field Day (Lexington)
September 23	OAK Field Day (Campbellsburg)
November 21-23	Small, Limited-Resource Minority Farmers Conference (Frankfort)

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!

2025 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Jan. 5 — Pre-Conference Events

Jan. 6 & 7 — Educational Sessions & Trade Show

