



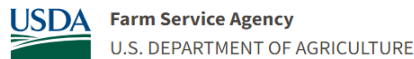
Center for Crop Diversification

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Center for Crop Diversification Technical Resource
CCD-TA-03
www.ccd.uky.edu

Kentucky is very fortunate to have many technical assistance providers ready to help farmers with production, business planning, and marketing to grow and sustain their operations. If you are a farmer in need assistance but are not sure which organization to reach out to, please feel free to contact The Food Connection (ashtonpotter@uky.edu) and our Value Chain Coordination team can connect you with the appropriate technical assistance provider(s).

Developed by Brandi Button Johnson, Ashton Potter, (The Food Connection) Taryn Varney (KCARD)



Contact will vary by county.
To find local contact use this link:
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices>

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is a part of the USDA specifically designed to serve farmers. FSA provides federal assistance to producers of all all sizes and types of farming operations. As the face of agriculture is changing, USDA is leveraging its footprint to meet the needs of all producers. FSA has two major categories of offerings: Farm Programs and Farm Loan Programs. FSA has programs for “traditional” crops, like wheat, corn, and soybeans, as well as programs for fruit and vegetable growers. They also have programs for lots of livestock—everything from cattle to honeybees to farm-raised fish.



KOAP@ky.gov

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF), in statute, is administered by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB). The mission of the board is to fund innovative proposals that increase net farm income and expand markets for Kentucky agricultural products. This includes finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities that will benefit Kentucky farms now and in the future. The KADB meets the third Friday of the month to review and take action on applications for county and state Agricultural Development Funds. <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2025-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html>



Kentucky Agricultural Council

855-921-2625 or
kyagcouncil@gmail.com

The Kentucky Agricultural Council (KAC) is an umbrella group representing all sectors of Kentucky Agriculture. Its 50+ members include non-profit organizations, trade associations, commodity groups, state and federal agencies, and institutions of higher education — all interested in the advancement and development of Kentucky agriculture. KAC works to:

1. Plan programs for its members and disseminate information that creates an understanding and appreciation of Kentucky agriculture.
2. Serve as liaison between private and public agricultural organizations, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Governor, and the legislature to develop and effectively utilize our agricultural resources.



info@cfaky.org

Community Farm Alliance (CFA) develops programs intended to foster healthy family scale farming in Kentucky. Their market development programs include farmers market support, farm to school initiatives and nutrition incentive programs like Kentucky Double Dollars and Fresh Rx for Moms. Under the umbrella of CFA, the Kentucky Farm to School Network organizes producer workshops, highlights Kentucky farmers and their products at school food trade shows, and publishes a monthly newsletter with farm to school successes and current opportunities. CFA also works on policy issues to support farms and local food systems at the national, state and local levels.



kcard@kcard.info

The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) is a non-profit organization that facilitates agricultural and rural business development in Kentucky. KCARD provides educational opportunities, technical assistance, and business support services to new and existing agribusinesses.



Center for Sustainability of Farms
and Families

Joni Nelson, joni.nelson@kysu.edu

The Kentucky State University's (KSU) Center for Sustainability of Farms and Families oversees the management of the Fruit and Vegetable Mobile Processing Unit (FVMPU), an on-site commercial kitchen for processing and food preparation, nutrition education through KSU's Mobile Health Units, and the mobile bee equipment autoclave. Their Small-Scale Farm Grant gives priority to four specific areas: food insecurity, organic agriculture, aquaculture, and value-added processing. Their farmer education grant is available to Kentucky producers who want to learn more about a specific subject through workshops, conferences, and/or printed materials.



growapp@berea.edu

Grow Appalachia partners with families, communities and organizations to create healthy, resilient and economically viable food systems. They offer a Beginning Farmer Series, garden grants, production planning assistance, a growing supplies catalog, high tunnel manufacturing and installation services, and manage the Berea Kids Eat program.



info@kyhortcouncil.org

The Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) represents the horticulture industry within the state including specialty crop growers and green industry business owners. They offer programming and resources in small fruits development, farm to school, cut flower farming, ag water quality testing, crop insurance and GAP audits.



VALUE CHAIN COLLABORATIVE

WKY VCC - Brandi Button-Johnson,
brandi.buttonjohnson@uky.edu.
CKY VKY VCC- Bo Milburn, bo.milburn@uky.edu

The Food Connection employs value chain coordinators (VCCs) to support farmers in cultivating meaningful and sustainable markets for their local food products and relationships with scale-appropriate distribution channels. The VCCs provide a variety of services, including market matchmaking, technical assistance, relationship building, innovating ideas, resource prospecting, and applied research to meet farmers where they are and assist them with selling their products, with an emphasis on institutional/food service markets.



Cultivate KY

Bryan Brady,
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courtney.bartlett@uky.edu

The Cultivate KY partnership is a collaborative initiative, spearheaded by The Food Connection, aimed at growing the specialty crop sector in Kentucky, with a particular emphasis on farm to institution supply chains. Cultivate KY provides technical assistance to produce growers, and to support their adaptation to rapid changes in produce food safety regulation and auditing. The partnership is composed of on and off campus partners from across the food and farm system including the Kentucky Horticulture Council, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), the Food Systems Innovation Center (FSIC), the Center for Crop Diversification (CCD), and the UK Horticultural Research Farm (South Farm). The partnership works together in developing strategic and innovative programming to support the development of wholesale ready producers in the Commonwealth. The Cultivate KY Team works directly with Kentucky farmers and food aggregators, and delivers one-on-one technical assistance, field days, workshops, webinars, and publications.



fsic@uky.edu

The University of Kentucky's Food Systems Innovation Center (FSIC) was created to assist processors, producers and entrepreneurs to maximize their market capabilities by providing them access to UK's technical and business expertise and applied research solutions. FSIC offers resources from the Department of Animal & Food Sciences and the Department of Agricultural Economics.



Alexis Sheffield
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Brett Wolff
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The Center for Crop Diversification (CCD) is a unit of UK's Cooperative Extension Service that helps farmers and businesses to plan, grow, and market better. They created and curate up-to-date, relevant, and accessible publications, price reports, videos, and in-person training opportunities.



info@oak-ky.org

The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) is a nonprofit organization founded by farmers, for farmers. OAK works to advance organic regenerative agriculture, to improve the health of the environment and our communities by growing ecological resilience, economic viability and socially just futures for Kentucky farmers through educational, technical assistance and market resources. OAK provides programming for farmers through education, technical assistance, and local market development.



info@foodchainlex.org

FoodChain is a nonprofit organization working to increase access to locally sourced, fresh food for everyone. FoodChain partners with their local community to empower people to love food with innovative methods of direct food access, unique and accessible food literacy programming, and a one-of-a-kind indoor aquaponic farm.



Traci Vaught
traci.vaught@usda.gov

USDA Rural Development aims to improve the economy and quality of life in rural America by providing loans, grants, and guarantees to support economic development, create jobs, and provide essential services like housing, healthcare, infrastructure, and community facilities in rural areas. Grants available through Rural Development USDA and those specific to Kentucky can be found here <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/ky>.

RURAL.gov

Rural Partners Network USDA
Rural Development State
Director for Kentucky- Travis
Burton travis.burton@usda.gov

The Rural Partners Network (RPN) is a network of federal agencies and commissions that helps rural communities find resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms.



info@mtassociation.org

The Mountain Association is a community economic development nonprofit that has served Eastern Kentucky since 1976. They offer a number of programs, including small business financing and business consulting services. They also have a team of energy experts that provide free advice to help you save on your bills. They can visit any farm or business in Kentucky's 54 Appalachian counties to complete an energy assessment. From there, they can help you decide what changes you can make to start saving. They provide grant application support for Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund programs and USDA Rural Energy for America (REAP) Program, and their lending team can also help finance any remaining gaps.



hello@acceleratingappalachia.org

Accelerating Appalachia helps food, fiber and forest product businesses in Appalachia with business development and funding.



KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture offers a variety of programs and services to support Kentucky farmers including, but not limited to, the Kentucky Proud program, grant opportunities, food safety training, organic inspections, and more.



Julia Rollins, Director of Field
Services Division
Julia.Rollins@kyfb.com

Kentucky Farm Bureau represents the interests of agricultural producers and rural communities. KFB advocates for Kentucky farmers and offers a variety of programs and services to support Kentucky farmers.



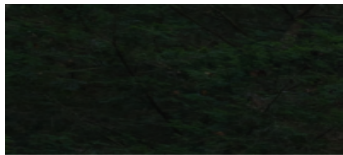
info@khic.org or (606) 864-5175

The SOAR Small Production Loan is a low-interest financing resource designed to assist small producers grow healthy, nutritionally-dense foods so that they can move into commercial production. It is managed by Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC) in London. Almost all food-related producers, such as fruit and vegetable growers, beekeepers, and gardeners of herbs, are eligible to participate in the program. The maximum loan amount is \$7,500 at a fixed interest rate of one percent and no closing fees. The term of the loan is for five years. Interest-only payments are due the first year of the loan. Loans will be collateralized with assets financed. Decision on the loan and turnaround is typically less than one week. Grow Appalachia in Berea will meet with participants where they live and address their specific needs as gardeners and food producers. This collaboration is a key feature of the loan fund.



Ashley Smith,
ashley@blacksoilky.com

Black Soil KY exists to reconnect Black Kentuckians to their heritage and legacy in agriculture. Black Soil offers a variety of programming including: agritourism, education & outreach, event management, seed-to-shelf commitment, and strategic partnerships.



SOAR

info@soar-ky.org

SOAR Innovation, funded by Kentucky Innovation, is a part of the Shaping Our Appalachian Region team working to level the playing field for entrepreneurs and startups in the Appalachia. SOAR is dedicated to reversing population loss and driving prosperity in 54 Eastern Kentucky counties by partnering with and supporting business owners, community leaders and residents, entrepreneurs, government representatives, and education leaders.



THE BERRY CENTER

info@berrycenter.org

Established in 2011, The Berry Center is putting Wendell Berry's writings to work by advocating for small farmers, land-conserving communities, and healthy regional economies. The Berry Center Farm and Forest Institute works to educate young farmers by offering workshops, short courses, and low residency education in low impact forestry, draft animal and livestock management, and agrarian humanities. The Berry Center also manages Our Home Place Meat - a beef program patterned after the tobacco cooperatives model which ensured that farmers made healthy profits and kept money in local economies.



info@kycattle.org

The Kentucky Cattleman's Association's mission is to provide a strong proactive voice for all of Kentucky's beef farm families, serve as a resource for information and education for producers, consumers, and the industry and be a catalyst for enhancing producer profitability. Most counties also have a local Cattleman's Chapter. Ask your local extension office for more information or use this link: <https://www.kycattle.org/county-chapters>.



Kelly Baird, kbaird@kycattle.org

The Kentucky Beef Council is an organization working on behalf of Kentucky cattle producers in areas of promotion, education and research. The Beef Checkoff funds these programs. The Checkoff is a \$2.00 per head collection, which is placed on all Kentucky cattle when they are sold. Fifty cents out of every Checkoff dollar collected goes to the Cattlemen's Beef Board in Centennial, Colorado, which oversees Checkoff programs. The remaining \$1.50 cents stays in Kentucky to fund state coordinated activities.



Beef Solutions,
beefsolutionsinfo@kycattle.org

Beef Solutions is a single-owner Limited Liability Company, owned by the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Inc. Beef Solutions was formed to provide a pathway for Kentucky's cattle farmers to enter the market for locally produced and marketed ground beef, guiding the product from the Kentucky farm to the Kentucky consumer.



Jake Harrod, jharrod@kycattle.org

The Kentucky Beef Network, LLC. (KBN) is a division of the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association that focuses on assisting beef cattle producers, improving animal health, genetics, forages, and marketing opportunities by enhancing producer profitability. All 38,000 cattlemen in Kentucky have the opportunity to benefit from programs and services offered through the KBN.



Niki Ellis, nellis@kypork.org

The Kentucky Pork Producers is a producer-led organization representing all pork producers throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They serve the interests of Kentucky swine producers through educating consumers and producers, funding industry research, promoting pork and pork products, and supporting the overall efforts of Kentucky swine farm families.



Patrick Angel, pangel9491@gmail.com

The Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association (SEKSPA) works with partners to provide a strong, proactive voice for all southeastern and eastern Kentucky sheep farm families, serve as a resource for information and education for producers, consumers, and the sheep and wool industry as a whole, and be a catalyst for enhancing producer profitability.



Harry Frederick, windingcreekfarmsky@gmail.com

The Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association:
1. Engages in educational activities in connection with improvement of breeding, health, marketing, and productivity of all classes of sheep.
2. Promotes the Sheep and Wool Industry.
3. Provides a direct link to the American Sheep Industry(ASI), the national association responsible for representing all political matters for sheep producers and their industry.
4. Establishes Industry Infrastructure
5. Advocates for Kentucky’s Sheep producers
6. Provides mentoring to new producers



Angie Downs, upsidedownsfarm@gmail.com

The Kentucky Goat Producers Association:
1. Promotes the improvement of breeding, health, marketing and productivity of goats
2. Promotes the industry
3. Advocates for the Kentucky goat producer
4. Establishes industry infrastructure
5. Provides mentoring to new producers



502-682-7780

kyates@kysheepandgoat.org

The Kentucky Sheep & Goat Development Office (KSGDO) supports and promotes the small ruminant industry in Kentucky. They serve as the umbrella for the Kentucky Goat Producers Association and the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association. KSGDO provides administrative support for each association and serves as a the hub for small ruminant production and consumption information.



Kentucky Poultry Federation
James Guffey,
jguffey@kypoultry.org

The Kentucky Poultry Federation was organized in 1957 as a civic and educational nonprofit corporation. The Federation exists for the purpose of fostering, promoting and encouraging the improvement of production and marketing of all types of poultry, poultry products, eggs and egg products in Kentucky. The Kentucky Egg Council coordinates all promotional activities of eggs and egg products. The Federation acts as the industry liaison with the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky State Legislature, the American Egg Board, the National Chicken Council, and the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association.



Jerry Pierce, (270) 737-4799
jerry.pierce@uky.edu






As a cooperative effort between member farms and the University of Kentucky, Department of Agricultural Economics, the Kentucky Farm Business Management (KFBM) Program provides a financial records-based information system to assist Kentucky farmers in best utilizing their resources to accomplish their goals and objectives. Program members receive one-on-one consultations and a broad range of financial planning and analysis services from their regional Specialist throughout the year while the University gains real-world data from operations across the commonwealth to inform and guide efforts and decisions across areas of research, extension, and teaching. Based in several office locations across the state, their program's specialists and staff cover 87 counties divided into four regions - Purchase, Pennyroyal, Ohio Valley, and Lincoln Trail.



**THE DAIRY
ALLIANCE**

Elise Carpenter,
ecarpenter@thedairyalliance.com
(270) 970-4792

The Dairy Alliance is a non-profit organization funded by dairy farm families of the Southeast. They work diligently with dairy farmers, schools, sports teams, health professionals, local organizations, state leaders, the media, and the public to promote dairy foods and knowledge about the dairy industry. The Alliance offers insight on how dairy foods are made, including safe farming practices and pasteurization. They provide nutritional information about dairy so the public is aware of its numerous health benefits, as well as information about managing lactose intolerance.

 <p>KDDC Kentucky Dairy Development Council</p> <p>kddc@kydairy.org 859-516-1129</p>	<p>The Kentucky Dairy Development Council is comprised of farmers, allied industry members and professional advisory supporters working together to sustain and grow Kentucky's dairy industry. Specifically, KDDC works to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) increase producer profitability 2) improve dairy farmer's competitiveness 3) enhance dairy farm families' quality of life 4) assist in the viability of Kentucky's dairy industry
  <p>president@kybees.org</p>	<p>The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) is a volunteer led, non-profit organization dedicated to apiculture in Kentucky serving backyard, sideline, and commercial beekeepers.</p> <p>The Certified Kentucky Honey Producers (CKHP) program promotes and certifies the purchase of honey produced, harvested, and bottled within the state of Kentucky. They emphasize the importance of honey and beekeeping to the general public and good beekeeping practices to beekeepers throughout the state of Kentucky.</p>
 <p>Debbie Ellis, dellis@kysoy.org</p>	<p>The Kentucky Livestock Coalition, a diverse group of livestock, grain, and farm organizations, works to ensure the public receives the most accurate and up-to-date information about Kentucky Agriculture and its livestock industry.</p> <p>They are dedicated to preserving and expanding farm animal production throughout the state of Kentucky by using environmentally sound production practices, scientifically based animal care standards, and approved and accepted quality assurance measures.</p>
 <p>info@kvga.org</p>	<p>The Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association was established in 1970 as a non-profit organization to bring together growers, researchers, and individuals across the state who are interested in vegetable production. Benefits include access to a quarterly newsletter, access to a group health care plan, and members' only content and much more! Our growers join with members of the Kentucky State Horticultural Society to organize the annual Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, held every January. This conference brings growers and researchers together to highlight topics of interest for vegetable growers in the state. Sessions often include talks on organic farming, vegetable production and farmers' markets. Research on new varieties and production techniques is presented as well as grower experiences.</p>

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.