



KENTUCKY

*Fruit &  
Vegetable  
Conference*

2026

BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13





# 2026 KENTUCKY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Kentucky State Horticultural Society  
170th Annual Meeting

Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association  
55nd Annual Meeting

**Organic Association of Kentucky  
and  
Kentucky Horticulture Council**

In cooperation with  
University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Communities and the Environment  
and Kentucky Department of Agriculture

## JANUARY 12-13, 2026

### PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS JANUARY 11, 2026

Sloan Convention Center  
Bowling Green, KY





# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

All Times are Central Standard Time

## Sunday, January 11

12:30–9:00 p.m.	Registration	Front Foyer
1:00–4:00 p.m.	From Diagnosis to Action: Building A Plant Disease Management Plan Pre-Conference Workshop	Ballroom A
3:00–9:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-up	Foyers, Ballroom D
3:00–6:00 p.m.	Bringing the Farm To School Grower Training	Salon B (hotel)
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Farmers Market Short Course	Meeting Rooms 1&2
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop	Meeting Rooms 3&4
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Vegetable Growers Meet & Greet	Meeting Room 5
7:30–8:30 p.m.	Fruit Year in Review / Meet & Greet	Meeting Room 5

## Monday, January 12

7:45 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk
8:30 a.m.	Open General Session, <i>Ballrooms B &amp; C</i>
10:30 a.m.	<i>Cider/Coffee Break &amp; Visit Exhibits</i>
11:30 a.m.	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> Business Management & Processes, <i>Ballroom A</i> Alternative Fruit and Nut Crops, <i>Ballroom B</i> Vegetable Production for Experienced Growers, <i>Ballroom C</i> Beginning Farmer Basics, <i>Meeting Rooms 1&amp;2</i> Greenhouse Production, <i>Meeting Room 5</i>
2:30 p.m.	<i>Cider/Coffee Break &amp; Visit Exhibits</i>
5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Close
6:00 p.m.	Urban and Small-Scale Grower Meet and Greet, <i>Hotel Lobby</i>

## Tuesday, January 13

7:45 a.m.	Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
8:00 a.m.	KVGA Business Meeting, <i>Ballroom C</i>
	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>
8:30 a.m.	Organic Production, <i>Ballroom A</i> Tree Fruit, <i>Ballroom B</i> Beginning Vegetable Production, <i>Ballroom C</i> Specialty Cut Flower Short Course, <i>Meeting Rooms 1&amp;2</i> High Tunnel Production & Mgmt, <i>Meeting Room 5</i>
10:00 a.m.	<i>Cider/Coffee Break &amp; Visit Exhibits</i>
11:45 a.m.	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 p.m.	KSHS Business Meeting, <i>Ballroom B</i>
1:00 p.m.	Poster Session, <i>Ballroom D</i>
1:30 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> Practical Marketing, <i>Ballroom A</i> Small Fruit, <i>Ballroom B</i> Urban & Small-Scale Farming, <i>Ballroom C</i> Specialty Cut Flower Short Course, <i>Meeting Rooms 1&amp;2</i> Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Reports, <i>Meeting Room 5</i>
3:00 p.m.	Exhibits Close



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## KY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President: Kevan Evans, Georgetown  
President-Elect: David Haney, Nancy  
Secretary: Sharon Flynt, Georgetown  
Treasurer: Amanda Gajdzik, Shelbyville  
Directors:

Adam Jones, Morgantown  
Tommy Parker, Louisville  
Billy Reid, Owensboro  
Michelle Sigler, Paducah  
Megan Fields, Versailles  
Michael Haney, Nancy  
Jonathan Price, Bowling Green  
Brandon Barnett, Cynthiana  
Kevin Byrnside, Shelbyville  
Joanna Hinton, Hodgenville

### Advisors:

Brent Arnoldussen, Lexington  
Daniel Becker, Princeton  
Cindy Finneseth, Lexington  
Kirk Pomper, Frankfort  
Alireza Rahemi, Morehead  
John Strang, Lexington  
Trevor Terry, Georgetown  
Shawn Wright, Jackson



## KY VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President: Nathan Howell, Scottsville  
Vice President: Megan Sharpe, Georgetown  
Secretary: Rhonda Cornett, London  
Treasurer: Ben Wilson, Richmond  
Directors:

Joel Wilson, Nancy  
Travis Cleaver, Hodgenville  
Jonathan Berkshire, Glencoe  
Ron McMaine, Salvisa  
David Neville, Campbellsburg  
Brad Reid, Owensboro  
Catherine Shake, Louisville

### Advisors:

Trevor Terry, Georgetown  
Sandi Deutsch, Taylorsville  
Annette Meyer-Heisdorffer, Owensboro  
Rachel Rudolph, Lexington  
John Strang, Lexington  
Shawn Wright, Jackson



Are you interested in serving on the board of one of Kentucky's prestigious produce organizations?

You can indicate your interest at registration or contact the organization's current president with any questions:

### Kentucky State Horticultural Society

Kevan Evans (Kevan@evansorchard.com)

### Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

Nathan Howell (needmoreacresfarm@gmail.com)

Why join the board of directors of KSHS or KVGA?

- Support your industry
- Expand your network
- Develop knowledge and skills to advance your business
- Influence policy decisions

Being a board member is an important responsibility and can have a tremendous positive impact on your personal business!



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ORGANIC ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY

Chair: Andrew Oles, Berea College, Madison County

Vice-Chair: SaraVard Von Gruenigen, Central KY Ag Credit, Garrard County

Exec. Director: Brooke Gentile, Fayette County

Treasurer: Bryce Baumann, Lazy Eight Stock Farm, Madison County

Directors:

Steve Muntz, Firefly Farm, Montgomery County

Maggie Dungan, Salad Days Farm, Woodford County

Carolyn Gahn, Applegate, Jessamine County

Julia Sampson, Consultant, Washington County, AR

Amber Sciligo, The Organic Center, Fayette County

Tonya Smith, Kentucky Ag Development Advocacy, Barren County

Advisors:

Sean Clark, Berea College, Madison County

David Gonthier, UK, Fayette County

Krista Jacobsen, UK, Anderson County

David Koester, UK, Boone County

Rachel Rudolph, UK, Fayette County

Mark Williams, UK, Fayette County





# 2026 KENTUCKY FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE SPONSORS

## SESSION SPONSORS



## PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



## GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR



## BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



## BEGINNING FARMER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS





# PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11** — All Times are Central Standard Time

**1:00-4:00 p.m. FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION: BUILDING A PLANT DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Dr. Nicole Gauthier, Kim Leonberger, and April Lamb Presiding, Ballroom A

*Disease and pest management options can be overwhelming. Which do you choose? How do you prioritize? This hands-on workshop will take growers from diagnostic report to decision-making. Participants will learn how to use resources such as fact sheets and spray guides, incorporating cultural practices and evaluating fungicides. Growers will work together to find solutions to example disease problems and leave with the knowledge to create disease management plans for their own farms. Skills learned are applicable for fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals, whether conventional or organic. Bring a laptop or tablet if possible (optional). Space is limited.*

**3:00-6:00 p.m. BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL GROWER TRAINING**

Laurie White, Presiding, Salon B (hotel)

*Are you a KY producer interested in selling to school markets? We invite you to attend our Bringing the Farm to School Grower Training program. The Bringing the Farm to School curriculum is a series for ag producers from the National Farm to School Network meant to prepare producers to sell to school markets. With our KY spin, we hope you'll walk away feeling ready to approach your local school! All agriculture producers are invited to attend the training.*

**4:00-6:00 p.m. FARMERS MARKET SHORT COURSE**

Morgan Murphy and Sharon Spencer Presiding, Meeting Rooms 1&2

Sponsored by:



*Are you a farmers' market leader, farmers' market vendor or even just someone thinking about selling at a farmers' market? Join us for the pre-conference session for an engaging and interactive short course on farmers' markets. Come learn how to grow your market and grow your individual sales.*

**4:00-6:00 p.m. FARM FOOD SAFETY PLAN WORKSHOP**

Bryan Brady and Courtney Bartlett, Presiding, Meeting Rooms 3&4

Sponsored by:



*Attention to food safety is critical to your farm's reputation. GAPs audits are becoming a standard requirement for many buyers of Kentucky produce crops and can give you a competitive advantage when selling. To help Kentucky growers focus on food safety and access markets that require third-party audit certification, we are offering a workshop focused on writing a farm food safety plan. The session will include an overview of different GAPs audits and details about on-farm technical assistance. You will learn the main structural components of a food safety plan such as standard operating procedures (SOPs), common food safety policies, and how to keep records efficiently. We will work through SOP and recordkeeping templates, and you will even get to write some specific to your operation with hands-on assistance. If you have a laptop, bring it along to work on the templates digitally. The format will be very interactive with opportunities to discuss challenges and develop solutions with experts.*

**6:30-7:30 p.m. VEGETABLE GROWERS YEAR IN REVIEW / MEET & GREET** Rachel

Rudolph, Presiding, Meeting Room 5

**7:30-8:30 p.m. FRUIT GROWERS YEAR IN REVIEW / MEET & GREET**

Brent Arnoldussen, Presiding, Meeting Room 5



# GENERAL SESSION

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12** — All Times are Central Standard Time

## **(1) General Session**

Ballrooms B & C

Kevan Evans, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. 2025 Fruit & Vegetable Conference Welcome — Nathan Howell
- 8:40 a.m. Kentucky Horticulture Council Update — Trevor Terry
- 8:55 a.m. University of Kentucky Horticulture Department Update — Mark Williams
- 9:05 a.m. Kentucky State University Update — TBD
- 9:15 a.m. Kentucky Department of Agriculture Update — Jonathan Shell
- 9:30 a.m. Kentucky Farm Bureau Update — TBD
- 9:50 a.m. Building Bridges to Farmer Mental Health — Paul Norrod
- 10:10 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas
- 10:30 a.m. Weather Alert: NEW Smartphone App From the UK Ag Weather Center — Matt Dixon
- 11:00 a.m. Produce Safety Grower Updates — Doris Hamilton
  
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch On Your Own - Check registration for list of local options
  
- 11:30 a.m. KSHS and KVGA Board Meetings  
[KSHS and KVGA board members will be provided lunch in their designated room.]  
Kentucky State Horticultural Society – *Meeting Rooms 3&4*  
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association – *Board Room*



# MONDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## **(2) Business Management & Processes**

Ballroom A

TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. If you dropped dead today...what happens to the farm? — Steve Isaacs
- 1:30 p.m. Key Lessons from Meeting the Buyer — Tim Woods
- 2:00 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 2:40 p.m. Preparing your Business to Sell to Institutions — Joshna Maharaj
- 3:10 p.m. Tools & Techniques for Doing Market Research — Brett Wolff & Kati Bowman
- 3:40 p.m. TBD
- 4:10 p.m. TBD

## **(4) Vegetable Production for Experience Growers**

Ballroom C

TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. Experiences with Herbicide Drift in Vegetable Production — Jacob Sharpe, Joel Wilson, Jonathan Berkshire, Shawn Wright, & Brad Smith
- 1:30 p.m. continued
- 2:00 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 2:40 p.m. Winter Row Cover Management — Nathan Howell
- 3:10 p.m. Managing the Weed Seedbank — Sam Oschwald Tilton
- 3:40 p.m. Watermelon Anthracnose: A Complexity of Complexes — Nicole Gauthier
- 4:10 p.m. Fruiting Performance of Mild Habanero Pepper Varieties at Kentucky State University — Kirk Pomper

## **(3) Alternative Fruit and Nut Crops**

Ballroom B

TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. Elderberry production systems (Title Pending) — Jody Thompson
- 1:30 p.m. New Pawpaw Varieties for Production in Kentucky — Kirk Pomper
- 2:00 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 2:40 p.m. Pecans (Title Pending) — David Hughes
- 3:10 p.m. Chestnuts (Title Pending) — Melanie Jones
- 3:40 p.m. Current Thoughts on Currants and Gooseberries — Shawn Wright
- 4:10 p.m. High Tunnel Fig Production in Kentucky — Blake Cothron

## **(5) Beginning Farmer Basics**

Meeting Rooms 1&2

TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. Get to Know the UK Center for Crop Diversification — Alexis Sheffield
- 1:30 p.m. Introduction to Production Budgets — Logan Crawford
- 2:00 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 2:40 p.m. Evaluating All American Selections for Your Operation — Shari Dutton
- 3:10 p.m. KY Farming Acronym Alphabet Soup — Cindy Finneseth
- 3:40 p.m. Soil Water Monitoring Options for Horticultural Crops — Daniel Becker
- 4:10 p.m. Basics of Building Irrigation Systems — Tara Vaughn & Cindy Finneseth



# MONDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## **(6) Greenhouse Production**

Meeting Room 5

TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. Greenhouse climate monitor and control —  
Travis Dixon
- 1:30 p.m. Soilless substrate selection for Greenhouse  
growers — Dr. Kristopher Criscione
- 2:00 p.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits —  
Trade Show Areas**
- 2:40 p.m. Fertigation options and strategies for  
greenhouse growers — Arundathi Sharma &  
Kelly Bryant
- 3:10 p.m. Beyond the Field: Modeling CEA's  
Contribution to Food Security — Dr.  
Melanie Yelton
- 3:40 p.m. Soilless berry production overview — Dr.  
Qinglu Ying
- 4:10 p.m. Selecting and specifying the right heating  
equipment for your greenhouse — Jon  
Rector

5:00 p.m. Exhibits Close

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Urban and Small-Scale Grower Meet and Greet:  
Building a Supportive Agricultural Community**

*Are you an urban or small-scale grower currently engaged in or interested in learning more about how to start or expand a produce or horticulture business in Kentucky? Join us for a Meet & Greet in the hotel lobby, open to all urban & small-scale growers and technical service providers.*



# TUESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## (7) Organic Production

Ballroom A

TBD, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Many Tiny Hammers: Combining cultural, chemical and biological approaches to disease prevention and management in certified organic specialty crop production — Nicole Gauthier & Kimberly Leonberger
- 9:00 a.m. Weeding tools for the small-scale farm — Sam Oswald Tilton
- 9:30 a.m. *Continued*
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 10:40 a.m. Organic carrot production across all seasons, from seed to storage — Farmers Chelsea Barbour, Kristi Durbin, & John Bell
- 11:10 a.m. *Continued*

## (8) Tree Fruit

Ballroom B

TBD, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Evaluating automated traps for codling moth and Oriental fruit moth monitoring — Ric Bessin
- 9:00 a.m. Introducing Network for Environmental Weather Applications (NEWA) for informed tree fruit production — Brent Arnoldussen
- 9:30 a.m. Infection vs Symptoms: Pathogen Activity and Disease Development — Nicole Gauthier
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 10:40 a.m. Understand Apple Pollination for Improved Fruit Set in Adverse Weather — Elayna Strin
- 11:10 a.m. Updates on the University of Kentucky Modern Training Systems and Climate Resiliency Orchard — Brent Arnoldussen

**Tree Fruit Session  
Sponsored by:**



## (9) Beginning Vegetable Production

Ballroom C

TBD, Presiding

- 8:00 a.m. **KVGA Business Meeting**
- 8:30 a.m. Cauliflower and Broccoli Production — Rachel Rudolph
- 9:00 a.m. Garlic Production — Joseph Monroe
- 9:30 a.m. Breeding 101: Better Vegetables for Growers and Consumers — Manoj Sapkota
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 10:40 a.m. 10 Things to Know About Annual Weeds — Sam Oswald Tilton
- 11:10 a.m. Disease Management Resources: Who, What, When, Where, and How? — Nicole Gauthier & Kim Leonberger

**Beginning Vegetable  
Production Session  
Sponsored by:**



## (10) Cut Flower Short Course

Meeting Rooms 1&2

TBD, Presiding

- 8:30 a.m. Approaches to Marketing Your Cut Flowers — Alexis Sheffield & Savannah Columbia
- 9:00 a.m. Sow, Grow, Repeat: Succession Planting for Endless Blooms — Tara Vaughn
- 9:30 a.m. Cut Flower Performance in TN: 2024-2025 UT Extension Trial Results — Celeste Scott
- 10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**
- 10:40 a.m. Woodie Shrub Production for Cuts — Alexis Sheffield & Shari Dutton
- 11:10 a.m. Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Native Perennials to Consider as Cut Flower Crops — Cindy Finneseth



# TUESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## **(11) High Tunnel**

### **Production**

Meeting Room 5

TBD, Presiding

8:30 a.m. New Resource! All About the High Tunnel Toolkit — Chris McKenzie

9:00 a.m. *Continued*

9:30 a.m. Efficacy of Soil Solarization for Managing Weeds and Pests in High Tunnels — Luize Lessmann

10:00 a.m. **Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits — Trade Show Areas**

10:40 a.m. Crop Rotation in High Tunnels: Planning, Considerations, and Reality Panel — Maggie Dungan, Nathan Howell, & Rachel Rudolph

11:10 a.m. *Continued*

**11:40 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. — LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Student Research Poster Session**

*Students will be present in Ballroom D with their posters during this time to discuss their research and answer questions about their projects and posters.*



# TUESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## **(12) Practical Marketing**

Ballroom A  
TBD, Presiding

- 1:00 p.m. **KSHS Business Meeting**
- 1:30 p.m. Farmer Panel - Grow Your Farm Business and Serve Your Community — *panel members TBD*
- 2:00 p.m. Futurist & Curmudgeon: Using AI in Marketing — Kati Bowman
- 2:30 p.m. Get the Most from your Kentucky Proud membership — Deanne Elmore
- 3:00 p.m. Practical Tips for Marketing to Institutions — Joshna Maharaj

## **(14) Urban & Small-Scale Farming**

Ballroom C  
TBD, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Growing Farmers Panel: Strategies for Activating the Next Generation — T'Von Terry, Isaiah Littlejohn, & Tatum Lewis
- 2:00 p.m. Growing Farmers Panel: Youth in Agriculture — Christine Chol & Michelle Howell
- 2:30 p.m. Grower Perspective: Balancing Profits and Social Impact — Ryan Hodge
- 3:00 p.m. Grower Perspective: Looking for New Opportunities — Andre Barbour

**Practical Marketing  
Session Sponsored by:**



## **(13) Small Fruit**

Ballroom B  
TBD, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Neopest in Strawberry: What We Know & Where We Go from Here — Nicole Gauthier
- 2:00 p.m. Modifying the harvest period of fall-bearing brambles through primocane management — Daniel Becker
- 2:30 p.m. Raised bed blueberry production and cultivars — Elayna Strin
- 3:00 p.m. Diseases of Perennial Berries: Management Challenges and Solutions — Nicole Gauthier

## **(15) Cut Flower Short Course**

Meeting Rooms 1&2  
TBD, Presiding

- 1:30 p.m. Grower Roundtable: Hardships, Successes, and Possibilities for the Future — facilitated by Cindy Finneseth & Tara Vaughn
- 2:00 p.m. Dahlia Production for the Cut Flower Market — Erica Penn
- 2:30 p.m. From Roots to Blooms: Nutrient & Water Management in Cut Flower Production Systems — Celeste Scott
- 3:00 p.m. Plague Bringers: Arthropod Vected Plant Diseases — Jonathan Larson



# TUESDAY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13** — All Times are Central Standard Time

5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Concurrent sessions will enable participants to attend topics of interest in different sessions.*

## **(16) Specialty Crop Block Grant Project**

### **Reports**

Meeting Room 5

Anne Harney, Presiding

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1:30 p.m. | Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: Tips for Success — Anne Harney  |
| 1:40 p.m. | Integrating Post-Covid Cut Flower Demand into Market Education — Tim Woods  |
| 1:50 p.m. | Kentucky Specialty Crop Producers' Learning Academy — Trevor Terry  |
| 2:00 p.m. | Enhancing the Competitiveness of Kentucky Winter Squash Production Through Sustainable Practices — Brian Brandt   |
| 2:10 p.m. | Organic Strawberries: Production of Plugs & Low Tunnel Fruit — Kristi Durbin  |
| 2:20 p.m. | Strengthening Specialty Crop Access Through Safe and Efficient Supply Chains — Michelle Howell & Laura Beth Fox-Ezell   |
| 2:30 p.m. | Central Kentucky Transitional and Specialty Crop Farmer Cohort Pilot Program — Joshua England   |
| 2:40 p.m. | Evaluation of Organic Control Tactics for Management of Harlequin Bugs on Cruciferous Crops — Ricardo Bessin  |
| 2:50 p.m. | Resistant Cultivars and Time of Planting as a Fungicide Free Option for Management of Lettuce Drop in High Tunnels in Kentucky — Rachel Rudolph                               |
| 3:00 p.m. | Strategies for Peer Promotion of Community Supported Agriculture in Employer CSA Programs — Jairus Rossi & Tim Woods  |
| 3:10 p.m. | The Use of Stropharia as Under-Vine Weed Control Management Strategy — Patsy E. Wilson  |
| 3:20 p.m. | Better Together: The Importance of Working Together to Streamline the Sales Process of Specialty Cut Flowers in the Local Farming Community to Increase Revenue — Kayla Carey |



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Brent Arnoldussen**, Extension Fruit Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Andre Barbour**, Grower, Barbour's Farm, Canmer, KY

**Chelsea Barbour**, Owner & Operator, High Five Farm, Versailles, KY

**Courtney Bartlett**, Extension Associate, Cultivate Kentucky, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Daniel Becker**, Small Fruit and Vegetable Extension Associate, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY

**John Bell**, Owner & Operator, Elmwood Stock Farm, Georgetown, KY

**Jonathan Berkshire**, Grower, Berkshire Farms, Glencoe, KY

**Dr. Ric Bessin**, Extension Entomologist, Dept. of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Kati Bowman**, Marketing and Business Development Specialist, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Elizabethtown, KY

**Bryan Brady**, Extension Associate Sr, Cultivate Kentucky, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Brian Brandt**, Agriculture Conservation Innovations Initiative Director, American Farmland Trust

**Kelly Bryant**, Agriculture Extension Associate Controlled-Environment Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Kayla Carey**, Owner & Operator, Rookery Flower Co., Owner & Operator, The Kentucky Flower Market, Frankfort, KY

**Christine Chol**, Owner & Operator, Need More Acres Farm, Scottsville, KY

**Savannah Columbia**, Extension Associate, University of Kentucky Department of Ag Economics, Lexington, KY

**Blake Cothron**, Owner of Peaceful Heritage Nursery LLC, Author of *Pawpaws* and *The Berry Grower*, Stanford, KY

**Logan Crawford**, Business Development Assistant, Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development, Elizabethtown, KY

**Dr. Kristopher Criscione**, Assistant Professor, Nursery Production Specialist, Virginia Tech, Virginia Beach, VA

**Matt Dixon**, Senior Meteorologist, UK Ag Weather Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Travis Dixon**, Sales Manager – US East Coast, Ridder, Philadelphia, PA

**Maggie Dungan**, Owner & Operator, Salad Days Farm, Versailles, KY

**Kristi Durbin**, Farm Manager, University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm – Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Unit, Lexington, KY

**Shari Dutton**, Extension Associate, Beginning Farmers, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Deanne Elmore**, Kentucky Proud Farm to Retail Liaison, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Joshua England**, Market Manager, Lexington Farmers Market, Lexington, KY

**Dr. Cindy Finneseth**, Extension Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Laura Beth Fox-Ezell**, Manager, Community Farmers Market, Bowling Green, KY

**Dr. Nicole Gauthier**, Extension Plant Pathologist, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Sarah Guerink**, Organic Production Specialist, Organic Association of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Doris Hamilton**, Plant Division Director, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Anne Harney**, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Coordinator, Office of Agricultural Marketing, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Ryan Hodge**, Grower, Hodge Family Farm, Hodgenville, KY

**Michelle Howell**, Owner & Operator, Need More Acres Farm, Scottsville, KY

**Nathan Howell**, President, Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, and Owner & Operator, Need More Acres Farm, Scottsville, KY

**David Hughes**, Owner & Operator, Rock Bridge Trees, Bethpage, TN



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Steve Isaacs**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Melanie Jones**, Founder and Grower & Systems Strategist, United Chestnuts, Falls of Rough, KY

**Dr. April Lamb**, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Dr. Jonathan Larson**, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Kimberly Leonberger**, Extension Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Luize Lessmann**, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Tatum Lewis**, Owner & Operator, Black Roots Farm, Winchester, KY

**Isaiah Littlejohn**, Owner & Operator, Jits Microfarm, Louisville, KY

**Joshna Maharaj**, Chef & Author, Dublin, IRE

**Chris McKenzie**, Farmer Development Coordinator, Grow Appalachia, Berea, KY

**Joseph Monroe**, Grower, Valley Spirit Farm, Campbellsburg, KY

**Morgan Murphy**, Program Coordinator, Direct Farm Marketing Division, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Dr. Paul Norrod**, Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH

**Sam Oschwald Tilton**, Glacial Drift Enterprises, LLC, Minneapolis, MN

**Erica Penn**, Owner & Operator, The Bloom Flower Farm, Portland, TN

**Dr. Kirk Pomper**, Professor of Horticulture, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

**Jon Rector**, Regional Sales Manager, Modine Manufacturing Company, Liberty SC

**Jairus Rossi**, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Dr. Rachel Rudolph**, Assistant Professor and Extension Vegetable Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Dr. Manoj Sapkota**, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Celeste Scott**, Horticulture Extension Specialist, University of Tennessee, Jackson, TN

**Arundathi Sharma**, Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Jacob Sharpe**, Owner & Operator, Home Grown Direct, Georgetown, KY

**Alexis Sheffield**, Extension Specialist, Center for Crop Diversification, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Jonathan Shell**, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Brad Smith**, Pesticide Licensing and Compliance Branch Manager, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Sharon Spencer**, Division Director, Direct Farm Marketing, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, KY

**Elayna Stirn**, Fruit Extension Associate, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**T'Von Terry**, Owner & Operator, T'Von's Farm, Louisville, KY

**Jody Thompson**, Senior Research and Extension Associate Forestry, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

**Tara Vaughn**, Nursery Crops Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Laurie White**, Central Kentucky Local Food Coordinator, Community Farm Alliance, Berea, KY

**Dr. Mark Williams**, Chair, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Joel Wilson**, Owner & Operator, Wilson's Cedar Point Farm, Nancy, KY

**Patsy Wilson**, Extension Specialist, Viticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Brett Wolff**, Extension Associate, Department of Agriculture Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Tim Woods**, Extension  
Professor, Department of  
Agricultural Economics, University  
of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Dr. Shawn Wright**, Extension  
Horticulture Specialist, Department  
of Horticulture, University of  
Kentucky, Robinson Center for  
Appalachian Resource  
Sustainability, Jackson, KY

**Dr. Melanie Yelton**, Founder &  
CEO, Grow Big, San Francisco, CA

**Dr. Qinglu Ying**, Controlled  
Environment Production Extension  
Specialist, Department of  
Horticulture, University of  
Kentucky, Lexington, KY

## HOTEL MAP

