

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

27TH ANNUAL



KENTUCKY SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE



Strengthening Local Food Systems for Small Farms

November 18-20, 2025

Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Cooperative Extension Program



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

College of Agriculture, Health,
and Natural Resources



KENTUCKY SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

2025 Conference Planning Committee

***Kasia Bradley
Carla Carter
Edwin Chavous
Mason Crawford
Michael DeCourcy
Megan Goins
Dr. Tyrell Kahan***

***Ann Miller
Savanna Miller
Joni Nelson
Jody Thompson
Chelsea Walling
Margaret Wolford***

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 1 Program Agenda Nov. 18, 2025

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Registration at Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm
**Vendors Fair*

10 – 10:10 a.m.

Welcome
Edwin Chavous, Small Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Kentucky State University

10 – 11 a.m.

Presentation of Colors
JROTC, Franklin County High School, Frankfort, KY

Dr. Marcus Bernard, Dean of College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources & Director of Land Grant Programs, Kentucky State University

Dr. Laura Stephenson, Vice President of Land-Grant Engagement and Dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky

Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy

Conisha Brumfield, Policy Analyst, Alcorn State University

USDA Programs
Eric Allness, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Conservationist
David Wayne, Farm Service Agency, State Executive Director

Community Farm Alliance
Myrisa Christy, Community Farm Alliance, Executive Director

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Success Stories
Jane O'Tiernan, Janes Garden Flowers

David Miller, Miller Farm

Angel and Lonzeo Ballew, Ballew Farms

Andre Faul, Faul Family Riverside Farm

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 1

Program Agenda

Nov. 18, 2025

12 – 1:30 p.m.	Greeting and Farm to Table Lunch Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo , President, Kentucky State University
1:30 – 5 p.m.	Tours <i>*Return to Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm After Tours</i> Capstone Farms , Pleasureville, KY Kentucky State University , Frankfort, KY TurnerBrook Farm , Richmond, KY
5 – 6 p.m.	Return to the Capital Plaza Hotel and Check-in <i>*Dinner on Your Own – Please Enjoy a Local Frankfort Restaurant for Dinner</i>
6 – 8 p.m.	Networking Session and Small Farm Leadership Institute Round Table at the Capital Plaza Hotel <i>*Light Refreshments will be provided by Locals Food Hub & Pizza Pub</i>

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 2 Program Agenda Nov. 19, 2025

6:45 – 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast at the Capital Plaza Hotel <i>*Bus leaves for Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm at 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.</i>
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Conference Sessions
8:30 – 9 a.m. <i>*15 Minute Networking Break Following Session</i>	Room A – Animals Winter Feeding/Cow Mike Wilson , Farm Technician, Kentucky State University Room B – Horticulture Flower Considerations of Growing Plants for Natural Dye Use Shari Dutton , Extension Associate, Beginning Farmers, University of Kentucky Room C – Business Planning/Marketing USDA–NRCS/FSA Programs Angella Watson , USDA Farm Service Agency Lacey Gaw , ASTC – Field Operations at USDA–NRCS
9:15 – 9:45 a.m. <i>*15 Minute Networking Break Following Session</i>	Room A – Animals Aquaculture in Kentucky Dr. Andrew Ray , Chair of the School of Aquaculture and Aquatic Science, and Associate Professor, Kentucky State University Room B – Horticulture Toolkit for Crop Protection and Season Extension: Utilizing the New High Tunnel Resource Guide Chris McKenzie , Grow Appalachia Room C – Business Planning/Marketing Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Strategic Planning and Market Development Kati Bowman , Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 2

Program Agenda

Nov. 19, 2025

10 – 10:30 a.m. *15 Minute Networking Break Following Session	Room A – Animals Updates on High Path Avian Flu Dr. Jessie Lay, Extension Animal Health Veterinarian, University of Kentucky Room B – Horticulture New Pawpaw Varieties for Kentucky Production Dr. Kirk Pomper, Professor of Horticulture, Kentucky State University Room C – Business Planning/Marketing Farm Law Education: Injury Liability & Farm Insurance Basics Nia Rivers, Community Farm Alliance
10:45 – 11:15 a.m. *15 Minute Networking Break Following Session	Room A – Animals Managing Reproduction in Small Ruminants Dr. Sarah Carr, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, Kentucky State University Room B – Horticulture Urban Farming and its Challenges Dr. Alhagie Cham, Urban Horticulture Extension/Research Scientist, Kentucky State University Room C – Business Planning/Marketing Marketing Your Products Sharon Spencer, Kentucky Department of Agriculture
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Greetings and Lunch Dr. Tyrell Kahan, Associate Extension Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program, Kentucky State University Dr. Jennifer Hunter, Associate Dean and Director of Extension, University of Kentucky

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 2

Program Agenda

Nov. 19, 2025

1 – 1:45 p.m. *15 Minute Networking Break Following Session	Room A – One Farm Health Farm Bill Updates Conisha Brumfield, Policy Analyst, Alcorn State University Room B – Sustainable Land Management The Alley Crop Project John Haney, Senior Research and Extension Associate, Forestry and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University Room C – Local Food Cooperators/Food Safety Food Safety Begins on the Farm Angel Hughes, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Produce Safety Program Manager
2 – 2:45 p.m. *15 Minute Networking Break Following Session	Room A – One Farm Health Lifestyle Modifications for Healthy Brain Aging Dr. Fred Schmidt and Dr. Willie McBride, College of Medicine, University of Kentucky Room B – Sustainable Land Management Pollinator Habitat Dr. Tamara Potter, Extension Associate, Kentucky State University Room C – Local Food Cooperators/Food Safety Buyer Panel Locals Food Hub & Pizza Pub and What Chefs Want

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 2

Program Agenda

Nov 19, 2025

3 – 3:45 p.m.
*15 Minute
Networking Break
Following Session

Room A – One Farm Health

Extreme Weather Preparedness for Farmers

Cameron Sellers, Community Resource Development – Disaster Educator,
Kentucky State University

Emily Smith, State Specialist – Disaster Health and Wellness, Kentucky State
University

Room B – Sustainable Land Management

Planning Forest Improvement Practices

Jody Thompson, Interim Program Leader – Ag and Natural Resources, Kentucky
State University

Room C – Local Food Cooperators/Food Safety

Cold Storage/Unit

Andy McDonald, Kentucky Solar Energy Society

6 – 8 p.m.

Banquet at the Capital Plaza Hotel



KENTUCKY SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

Special Awards Banquet

November 19, 2025

6-8 P.M.

Capital Plaza Hotel

Frankfort, Kentucky



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

College of Agriculture, Health,
and Natural Resources

ORDER OF EVENTS

**6 P.M. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
DR. MARCUS BERNARD
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**

**6:15 P.M. BUFFET DINNER
ALFALFA RESTAURANT**

**6:30 P.M. KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. TOMMY PARKER
URBANECO FARMS**

**7 P.M. SMALL FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD
EDWIN CHAVOUS
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**

**7:15 P.M. WEST LOUISVILLE URBAN GROWERS
GILL FINLEY & KELLY RAWALT
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**

8 P.M. DISMISS

SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Day 3

Program Agenda

Nov 20, 2025

6:45 – 8:30 a.m.	Health Fair and Clinic Dr. Avinash Tope , Associate Dean of Academics, Kentucky State University <i>*Capital Plaza Hotel Lobby</i>
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Breakfast at the Capital Plaza Hotel <i>*Please Drive Yourself to Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm</i>
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Third Thursday Workshop
10 – 10:10 a.m.	Welcome and Announcements Edwin Chavous , Small Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Kentucky State University
10:10 – 11 a.m.	Water Quality is in Our Hands, Making a Documentary Dr. Nancy Dawson and Christopher Rapley , Albany State University
11– 11:30 a.m.	Income From Small and Micro-Scale Vegetable Farming Dr. Sid Dasgupta , Associate Research Director, Kentucky State University
11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Soil Conservation Practices: Working With Farmers Dr. Maheteme Gebremedhin , Chair, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University Jacob Brown , Research Associate, Kentucky State University Ojo Richard , Graduate Research Assistant, Kentucky State University
12 – 1 p.m.	Lunch
1 – 2 p.m.	Heirs Property Casey Townsend , State Specialist – Land Retention and Wealth Building, Kentucky State University
2 p.m.	Closing Remarks Edwin Chavous , Small Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Kentucky State University

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Alcorn
State University



OUR FOOD VENDORS



Alfalfa Restaurant

<https://www.alfalfa-catering.com>
alfalfasrestaurant@gmail.com
Lexington, KY



Locals Food Hub & Pizza Pub

<https://www.localsfoodhub.com>
info@localsfoodhub.com
Frankfort & Louisville, KY

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Alcorn State University - Policy Center at Alcorn

Alcorn State University is a public Historically Black Land-Grant University located in Lorman, Mississippi and the oldest public Historically Black College in the United States. The mission of the Policy Center is to conduct research, analyze policy, and make recommendations seeking to achieve economic integration of USDA programs and policies for farmers, ranchers, communities, and rural landowners.

Contact: Conisha Brumfield | cbrumfield@alcorn.edu | 601.443.1494

The Berry Center Farm and Forest Institute

The Berry Center Farm & Forest Institute offers affordable workshops, short-courses, and field days that accommodate busy lifestyles. Hands-on classes focus on Livestock on grass production, Low-impact forestry, and Cooperative economics, thought, and leadership. This agrarian education addresses the difficult realities of our present economy by using what is affordable, appropriate, and ready at hand.

Contact: Shannon Boyd | shannonboyd@berrycenter.org | 859.468.2548

Community Farm Alliance

Community Farm Alliance works to organize and encourage cooperation among rural and urban citizens through leadership development and grassroots democratic processes to ensure an essential, prosperous place for family-scale agriculture in our economies and communities.

Contact: Myrisa Christy | myrisa@cfaky.org | 859.302.6304

Farm Credit Mid-America

Farm Credit Mid-America is a financial services cooperative that provides loans and financial services to farmers, rural residents, and agribusinesses in four states: Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Contact: Marcus Tyler | marcus.tyler@fcma.com | 502.420.3612

Feeding Kentucky

Feeding Kentucky supports farmers by purchasing their products through programs like Farms to Food Banks and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), providing a reliable market while addressing hunger across the state. This partnership helps these farmers expand their reach and contribute to local food security efforts.

Contact: Maddie Pierce | maddie@feedingky.org | 502.209.8157

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Grow Appalachia

Grow Appalachia envisions a vibrant, regional food system where healthy food is accessible to all, focusing on many levels of food security and working holistically to ensure individuals and families have access to healthy food.

Contact: Chris McKenzie | mckenziec@berea.edu | 859.302.3114

Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) is a nonprofit organization established to facilitate agricultural and rural business development in Kentucky, providing educational opportunities, technical assistance, and business support services to new and existing agribusinesses of all sizes, types, and backgrounds.

Contact: Terryn Varney | kcard@kcard.info | 859.550.3972

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Direct Farm Marketing is all about connecting consumers to Kentucky agricultural producers. Through Farmers' Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), producers can maximize profits simultaneously offering consumers a direct path to procure the freshest local products. Agritourism offers the opportunity to build relationships between the agricultural community and the local tourism industry by incorporating education and enjoyable activities on working farms or agribusiness operations.

Contact: Sharon Spencer | sharon.spencer@ky.gov | 502.782.4127

Kentucky Farm Bureau Foundation

Kentucky Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to serving our membership family and their communities. As the Voice of Agriculture, we identify problems, develop solutions, promote economic success, and enhance the quality of life for all.

Contact: Fran McCall | Fran.McCall@kyfb.com | 502.836.9523

Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation

Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation provides and retains employment opportunities in Southeastern Kentucky through community development, responsible investments, training, and management assistance. Our purpose is to coordinate, devise, implement, and promote community, economic, and social development efforts within their twenty-two-county footprint.

Contact: Michael Hayes | mhayes@khic.org | 606.864.5175

Kentucky Horticulture Council

Kentucky Horticulture Council's purpose is to support the state horticulture industry and be a resource for information and education for growers, business owners, and the public to promote a thriving industry.

Contact: Dakota Moore | dakota@kyhortcouncil.org | 615.339.3632

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.

Contact: Lacey Gaw | lacey.gaw@usda.gov | 502.695.3923

Organic Association of Kentucky

The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) is a nonprofit organization founded by farmers, for farmers. OAK provides educational programming for farmers to increase the adoption of organic practices and conservation through an annual conference, year-round Field Days, webinars and workshops, on-farm technical assistance, organic transition assistance, and local market development.

Contact: Jenny Howard Owen | jenny@oak-ky.org | 502.517.9629

Southern Risk Management Education Center

Our mission is to educate farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world's table. The Southern Center, in conjunction with three other regional Centers, conducts the Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants Program.

Contact: Chimere Hampton | champton@uada.edu | 501.263.5358

USDA - Farm Service Agency (Kentucky)

The USDA Farm Service Agency serves all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.

Contact: Angella Watson | angella.watson@usda.gov | 859.224.7685

USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. The Census of Agriculture counts producers and collects demographics for USDA, and others, to serve farmers.

Contact: Scott Lemmons | scott.lemmons@usda.gov | 360.265.8219

USDA - Rural Development

Rural Development has programs to help improve quality of life and economic prosperity in rural America.

Contact: Rachel Chambers | rachel.chambers@usda.gov | 606.910.3338



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 28TH ANNUAL



KENTUCKY SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2026

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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USDA NIFA's Notice to Beneficiaries and Prospective Beneficiaries



CONFERENCE SURVEY QR CODES

**POST-SESSION SURVEY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**



**POST-SESSION SURVEY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**



**POST-SESSION SURVEY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**



POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY





KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture, Health,
and Natural Resources

STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS FOR SMALL FARMS

Kentucky State University
400 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
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