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**Coming up**

**October 5** - Pumpkin Field Night, 5:30-8:30 p.m. EDT, at The Ohio State University South Centers, Piketon. Cost: \$25 per person. To register, [click here](#).

**October 12** - Berea College Farm Field Day: Organic Horticulture and Field Crops, Pasture-Raised Livestock, and Farm Store. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT. Brought to you by the Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK). For more information, [click here](#).

**October 26** - Going Organic: A Beginner's Guide to Transition webinar, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. EDT. Brought to you by the Organic Association of Kentucky, and the UK Center for Crop Diversification. For more information and to register, see **Page 3**.

# Online guide, Kentucky workshops offer farmers help with grant programs

*From the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development*

In mid-September, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition released an updated version of its Farmers' Guide to Applying for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program, which is available for free on [NSAC's website](#). On August 28<sup>th</sup>, USDA announced its 2017 Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the [Value-Added Producer Grant Program \(VAPG\)](#). VAPG is a critical program for farmers and food entrepreneurs nationwide, because it helps them turn raw product into processed goods (e.g., milk into cheese or apples into apple cider) that can bring in significantly more revenue. VAPG funds can be used for working capital, feasibility studies, business plans, and for marketing efforts to establish viable value-added businesses. Up to \$75,000 is available for planning grants and up to \$250,000 is available for implementation grants.

VAPG provides grants to individual independent agricultural producers, groups of independent producers, producer-controlled entities, organizations representing agricultural producers, and farmer or rancher cooperatives to create or develop value-added producer-owned businesses. Priority is given to projects that increase opportunities for small and mid-sized family farms, and/or for beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

 Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

USDA offers a simplified application form for working capital projects requesting less than \$50,000. Many of the smaller grants are single farmer projects for which larger-scale working capital applications are unnecessarily complex. If you are applying for working capital under the simplified application, you are not required to provide an independent feasibility study or business plan.

Deadlines for VAPG are midnight EST, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for proposals submitted online through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), or proposals submitted by mail must be postmarked by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

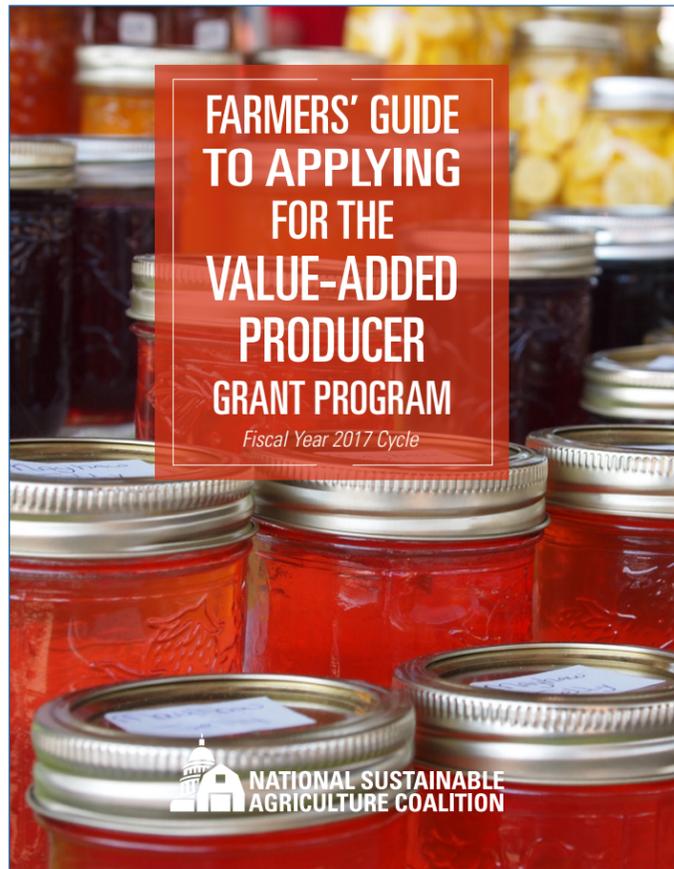
Additional assistance is available to potential applicants for the VAPG program through the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD). KCARD will offer two workshops specifically for those interested in applying for the Value-Added Producer Grant. The cost for each workshop is \$10 and dinner is provided. Pre-registration is required. The first workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. CDT at the Warren County Extension Office in Bowling Green. [Click here](#) to register.

The second VAPG workshop will take place on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Clay County Extension Office in Manchester from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. EDT. To register for the Clay County workshop, [click here](#).

There are also four KCARD Grant Workshops coming up. These workshops, which provide an overview of common grant and financial assistance programs, are designed to help applicants understand planning for grants, and work on common grant requirements. You MUST register at the links below. If you cannot access these links, then contact KCARD at 859-550-3972. The evening workshops will cover the same programs as the day workshops in a more condensed format. Each workshop has a \$10 registration fee that includes either lunch or dinner. The schedule is:

**Nov. 1** - Clark County Extension Office, 4:30 p.m. (registration), workshop from 5-8:30 p.m. EDT. [Click here](#) to register.

**Nov. 8** - Grayson County Extension Office, 8 a.m. (registration), workshop from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



CST. [Register here](#).

**Nov. 20** - Magoffin County Extension Office, 4:30 p.m. (registration), workshop from 5-8:30 p.m. EST. [Register here](#).

**Dec. 7** - McCracken County Extension Office, 8 a.m. (registration), workshop from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CST. [Click here](#) to register.

## MarketReady training coming up

The MarketReady Producer Training Program will be offered on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Shelby County Extension Office in Shelbyville, KY. The program is designed for beginning and existing producers and processors interested in selling products to restaurants, grocers/wholesalers/retailers, and schools. It will provide you with professional marketing education to improve sales relationships and get you up to speed with the latest local food programs, resources and safety regulations. MarketReady also offers continuing education credits for Extension agents. The November 10<sup>th</sup> program will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. The cost is \$25, which includes lunch.

The Shelby County Extension Office is located

at 1117 Frankfort Road in Shelbyville. For more information and to register, please visit [http://www.uky.edu/marketready/sites/www.uky.edu/marketready/files/pictures/MR\\_Shelby\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/marketready/sites/www.uky.edu/marketready/files/pictures/MR_Shelby_Flyer.pdf), or contact Alex Butler at [Alex.Butler@uky.edu](mailto:Alex.Butler@uky.edu) or (859) 218-4383.

## Thinking of going organic? Don't miss this webinar!

The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) and the Center for Crop Diversification are offering a webinar entitled "Going Organic - A Beginner's Guide to Transition" on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. EDT. The webinar, which will feature OAK transition trainers, will enable you to:

- Learn about the first steps toward Organic Certification
- Identify common mistakes to avoid
- Meet the Organic Transition Trainers
- Ask questions and give feedback about what YOU need

To register, visit <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/content/going-organic-webinar-registration>. Questions? Contact Brett Wolff at [brett.wolff@uky.edu](mailto:brett.wolff@uky.edu) or (859) 218-4384.

## Wine chemistry course scheduled

Online registration for the Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry course with Clark Smith on November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> at the Owensboro (KY) Convention Center is now open.

Smith teaches at Napa Valley College, UC Davis Extension, and CSU Fresno. This event is pre-registration only; registration will not be accepted at the door. Early bird registration (\$200) is open until October 18<sup>th</sup>. The regular registration rate (\$250) is extended until October 27<sup>th</sup>. You must be registered by October 27<sup>th</sup> to attend. For course, lodging and registration details, [click here](#).

This event is offered at a reduced rate through support funding from the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. If you have questions, contact Patsy Wilson at [Patsy.Wilson@uky.edu](mailto:Patsy.Wilson@uky.edu).



## CCD resources update

The Center for Crop Diversification has updated three more crop profiles in September. They are High Tunnel Tomatoes (CCD-CP-62), Specialty Melons (CCD-CP-120), and Stevia (CCD-CP-55). Check for these and many other publications on our website at [www.uky.edu/ccd/](http://www.uky.edu/ccd/). Also, be sure to check out our Produce Food Safety resources at <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/foodsafety>.

## Thanks for reading!

If you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter, or you're not subscribed yet yourself, visit [www.uky.edu/ccd/newsletter](http://www.uky.edu/ccd/newsletter) and click "Subscribe Now." Or call Brett Wolff at 859-218-4384, or Christy Cassady at 859-257-1477. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforCropDiversification/>

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