



**January 2018**

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# Maple syrup production a sweet option for KY

*By Brett Wolff, Center for Crop Diversification*

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## Coming up

**Feb. 13-15** - Indiana Hort Congress, Indianapolis, IN. Early bird registration ends Feb. 1. For program and registration information, [click here](#).

**Feb. 15-17** - Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Conference, Dayton, OH. For details and registration information, visit <http://www.oeffa.org/conference2018.php>.

**Feb. 15-17** - PickTN Conference, Chattanooga, TN. For program details and to register, [click here](#).

**Feb. 22-23** - Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference, Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, KY. For details, [click here](#).

**Feb. 21-24** - West Virginia Small Farm Conference, Morgantown. For more information, [click here](#).

Maple syrup producers across the state have been working hard to collect the first sap runs of the year. Though areas in the northeastern United States are known for their maple syrup production, we have a growing number of people in Kentucky interested in producing the famous pancake topping. We were curious to hear about who these maple syrup producers were, so we got in contact with a few of them.

For David Walker of Walker Family Farm, it's a family business — part of the fun of maple syrup production is spending time in the woods with his dad and kids. He said that he learned from friends in the area, Seth Long and Keith Moore.

Woody Hartlove of [Hartlove Farms](#) learned by attending all the workshops he could, including a Backyard Maple Syrup workshop hosted by his county extension agent Jeremy Williams. He then attended the first Kentucky-Virginia Maple School in December of 2016.

The Wyatts of [Wyatt's Chapel](#) got started in maple syrup as a way to carry on family heritage and traditions. "We hang buckets in the same holler that Robert's great-grandmother & grandmother did." Thanks to Kentucky State University's Small Farms Grant Program, they were able to get a wood-fired evaporator made specifically for maple sap.

Amy Richardson of [Forgotten Foods Farm](#) said, "I love people's

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Photo courtesy of Wyatt's Chapel

Photo courtesy of SouthDown Farm Above: Some producers collect sap in individual containers while others run networks of lines. Left: Evaporation is moving along nicely in the sugar shack.

### Continued from Page 1

reactions at the market when they see Kentucky produced maple syrup, and I love being able to take advantage of our 'off-season' for vegetables." They tapped their first trees in 2015 and produced their first batch of syrup. They enjoyed it and their customers loved the product, so they kept doing it every year since.

Misty Hatfield and family ([Hatfield Farm](#)) got started when they bought a piece of land in Bell County and were looking for ways to supplement their income slightly and diversify the farm products they produce. When we asked where she learned she said, "Believe it or not, YouTube videos. Tons of them, so I could cross reference what

seemed to be true and what was bunk."

For Sheryl and Seth Long of [SouthDown Farm](#), producing maple syrup or "sugaring" fits in with the other diversified products they offer including vegetables, flowers, honey, cornmeal, herbs and more. They are tapping close to 200 trees this year, aggregating the sap through a network of collection lines. Their sugar shack is a beautiful and functional facility!

Many of these producers are part of the relatively young Kentucky Maple Syrup Association. We have linked the Facebook pages of the farms we featured throughout the article. You can get in touch with the [KMSA on Facebook](#) or by emailing [kymaplesyrup@gmail.com](mailto:kymaplesyrup@gmail.com).

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## Ohio State to host hops conference and farm tour in March

The 2018 Ohio State University Hops Conference, Bus Tour and Trade Show will be held March 23-24 at the OSU Endeavor Center and Extension Research Facility in Piketon, OH.

The conference will include speakers from OSU, other universities, hops growers and brewers. Registration is \$150 for two days, \$100 for one day. The fee includes a hops farm tour, lunch for both days, a flash drive with presentations, and more.

Topics will include pest management, weeds, trellis systems, irrigation, fertilization, when NOT to start a hop farm (finances, business planning, markets, labor), harvest, processing and storage, etc.

For more information, visit <https://southcenters.osu.edu/horticulture/other-specialties/hops/2018-the-ohio-state-university-hops-conference-bus-tour-trade>.

# OAK conference to feature produce, hemp, marketing, more

From the Organic Association of Kentucky

The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) will hold its seventh annual conference focusing on organic farming and eating March 2<sup>nd</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lexington. Liz Carlisle, who told the story of the transformation of a Montana community in her book "Lentil Underground," will lead a lineup of speakers in subjects including pasture-raised livestock, hemp, produce, farm management, marketing and more.



## If you go

**When:** March 2-3  
**Where:** Clarion Hotel  
Conference Center  
North, Lexington

The conference begins on Friday with four intensive short courses, including grassfed dairy, weed management, permaculture and fearless farm finances. Short courses will be followed by an organic food reception and a showing of the movie King Corn. Saturday programming includes 24 sessions on topics as varied as multi-species grazing, hemp production, soil health, and organic tomato growing and marketing.

As always, the compelling "meet the buyers" session is scheduled again this year, with buyers of everything from grain to produce. The presentation, which includes buyers for a wide range of organic products, is scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday.

In addition to sessions, attendees can learn from more than 35 exhibitors and enjoy an organic lunch and snacks.

"Organic growing helps farmers, consumers and the earth," said OAK board chair Mac Stone. "The OAK conference allows all farmers and consumers to learn how their choices affect themselves and the world around them."

The conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center North, 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington. Registration cost is \$135 for the entire conference for OAK members if they register before Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Single day rates are available, as are student scholarships. To register, visit <https://www.oak-ky.org/conference-registration>.

For more information, visit [oak-ky.org](http://oak-ky.org) or call Brooke at (502) 219-7378.

## Check out these new and updated resources from the CCD

If you haven't already done so, be sure to check out some of the recent additions to the CCD website. A new publication, Produce Food Safety: Packing & Storing (CCD-PFS-1), by Paul Vijayakumar, Bryan Brady and Brett Wolff, is available [here](#). Updated profiles that have been posted on the CCD website ([www.uky.edu/CCD](http://www.uky.edu/CCD)) since our last newsletter include [Eggplant](#) (CCD-CP-131), [Echinacea](#) (CCD-CP-52), [Marketing Fresh Produce to Restaurants](#) (CCD-MP-21), [MarketReady Producer Training Program](#) (CCD-MP-11), [Kentucky MarketMaker](#) (CCD-MP-10), [Risk Management in Specialty Crops: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) (CCD-FS-7), and the [Kentucky Proud Buy Local Program](#) (CCD-MP-18). The Buy Local Program replaced the Kentucky Restaurant Rewards Program at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture



ture, so be sure to take a look at how this new program can benefit your farm.

# KDA approves 225 applications for 2018 hemp research

*From the Kentucky Department of Agriculture*

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) has approved 225 applications from growers to cultivate up to 12,018 acres of industrial hemp for research purposes in 2018. More than 681,000 square feet of greenhouse space were approved for indoor growers in 2018.

“Kentucky continues to lead on industrial hemp research, exploring every aspect of this versatile crop,” Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. “Because of the research conducted by our growers, processors, and universities, I am more optimistic than ever that we can put industrial hemp on a path to widespread commercialization once Congress removes it from the federal list of controlled substances.”

The KDA received a total of 257 applications – 243 grower applications and 14 processor/handler applications. Additionally, 43 participants renewed multi-year processor licenses. Applicants were asked to identify which harvestable component of the plant would be the focus of their research (floral material, grain, or fiber); some applicants selected more than one component. As a result, the number of approved applicants focusing on the different components of the plant are as follows: 185 for floral material, 103 for grain or seeds, and 66 for fiber.

In 2017, 209 growers were approved to plant up to 12,800 acres of industrial hemp. In 2017, program participants planted the highest number of acres

on record at more than 3,200 acres. The 2017 planting acreage was up from 2,350 acres in 2016, 922 acres in 2015, and 33 acres in 2014.

The KDA continues to work closely with state and local law enforcement officers. Just like last year, the KDA will provide GPS coordinates of approved industrial hemp planting sites to law enforcement agencies before any hemp is planted. GPS coordinates were required to be submitted on the application. Participants also must pass background checks and consent to allow program staff and law enforcement officers to inspect any premises where hemp or hemp products are being grown, handled, stored, or processed.

The KDA is offering 2018 applicants who were initially denied entrance into the research pilot program an opportunity to make their case to a three-person administrative panel. Appeals hearings will be held in early February.

The KDA operates its program under the authority of Section 7606 of the 2014 federal farm bill, now 7 U.S.C. § 5940, which permits industrial hemp pilot programs in states where hemp production is permitted by state law. Mandatory orientations for all approved applicants will be held between Feb. 20 and March 2. Licenses will be issued in March following orientation. The 2017 grower licenses are active until March 31, 2018.

For more information, visit [www.kyagr.com/hemp](http://www.kyagr.com/hemp).

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## Are you turning a profit? February webinar can help you decide

*From The Land Connection*

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, The Land Connection is hosting a free webinar on profit & loss statements from 1 to 2 p.m. CST. The profit & loss statement can tell you if your farm business is turning a profit. This live webinar will teach you how to organize your income and expenses into meaningful categories and interpret their impact on your bottom line. It will also teach you how to use this information to file your Schedule F for your taxes.

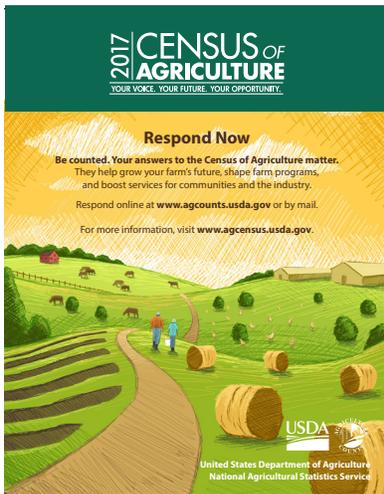
Farmer Training program manager Mallory Krieger will be teaching this webinar, and will feature a farmer who has benefited from using a profit & loss statement. Tune in live and have a chance to ask questions from the experts. The webinar is free, with the option of an individual consultation for \$25.

A second webinar, QuickBooks Basics, will be offered May 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information on both webinars and to register, [click here](#).

## Census of Ag deadline is Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>

From USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reminds our nation’s farmers and ranchers that the deadline for the 2017 Census of Agriculture is next week. Producers should respond online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail by February 5<sup>th</sup>. The online questionnaire offers new timesaving features.



The Census of Agriculture is the only NASS questionnaire mailed to every producer across the country and is conducted just once every five years. Everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire is to return it, even if they are not currently farming. Producers are required by law to respond; NASS is required by law to keep all information confidential, use the data only for statistical purposes, and only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm.

For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov), or call (800) 727-9540.

## KY food safety trainings coming up

Produce Best Practices Training is a Kentucky-specific voluntary basic food safety training available through local extension offices. This program is a prerequisite for sampling certificates and a good idea for anyone growing produce. It replaces the GAP training offered through county extension offices.

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Vijayakumar, [paul.v@uky.edu](mailto:paul.v@uky.edu) or 859-257-1546. For a list of training dates, visit <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/foodsafety/pbpt/2018dates>. Produce food safety information is available at <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/foodsafety>.

## Pruning workshops set for Western KY

UK extension associate Daniel Becker ([daniel.becker@uky.edu](mailto:daniel.becker@uky.edu)) will be offering workshops on pruning and other topics this winter. Dates and sites include:

**February 13 – Home Fruit Disease Management**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. CST, Crittenden County Extension Office Annex, 1534 US Highway 60 E, Marion, KY 42064, (270) 965-5236. Note: The annex is a converted red brick ranch house fronted by a gravel drive 200 feet east of the office on US 60. If extra parking is needed, use the office parking lot.

**February 22 – Home Strawberry Production**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST, Lyon County Extension Office, 231 Main Street, Eddyville, KY 42038, (270) 388-2341.

**February 23 – Informal Apple Pruning Meeting**, 1-4 p.m. CST at the UK Research and Education Center, 1205 Hopkinsville Street, Princeton, KY 42445, (270) 365-7541 x262. Meet in lobby of main building and travel to research orchard. Focus will be on pruning vertical axis apple and open center peach training systems, but will also offer a chance to experience pruning a mature tall spindle apple training system.

**March 6 – Tree Fruit Pruning Workshop**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. CST, Hopkins County Extension Office, 75 Cornwall Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431, (270) 821-3650.

**March 9 (March 13 backup date) – Tree Fruit Pruning and Grafting Demo**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. CST, Grayson County Extension Office, 123 Commerce Drive, Leitchfield, KY 42754, (270) 259-3492.

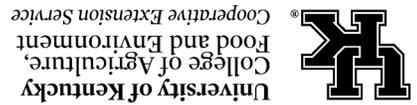
**March 22 – Growing Fall Brassicas**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST, Lyon County Extension Office, 231 Main Street, Eddyville, KY 42038, (270) 388-2341.

## Thanks for reading!

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