



June 2022

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Coming up

July 12 - Reducing Risk, Specialty Crop Insurance Webinar Series. Topic: Grower Panel. 12:30 p.m. ET. To register, [click here](#).

July 26 - Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) Field Day. Topic: Intensive Cover Crop Methods for No-till Production of Staple Crops and Vegetables. Salamander Springs Farm, Berea, 9 a.m.-noon ET. For details and to register, go to <https://oak.wildapricot.org/event-4775153>.

Aug. 4 - Organic Association of Kentucky Field Day, Flowers, Herbs, and Vegetables: Growing a Backyard Garden into a Small-Scale Farm Business. Mountain Girl Provision Company, Greenup, KY. 9 a.m.-noon ET. For more information and to register, visit <https://oak.wildapricot.org/event-4868748>.

USDA offers assistance for specialty crop growers' on-farm food safety costs

From the United States Department of Agriculture

HOLLIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on June 17th that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023. USDA's new [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops](#) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

Specialty crop operations can apply for assistance for eligible expenses related to a 2022 food safety certificate issued on or after June 21st, 2022, beginning June 27th, 2022. USDA is delivering FSCSC to provide critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

Program Details

FSCSC will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty

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USDA reminds producers to file crop acreage reports

From the USDA Farm Service Agency

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after planting should make an appointment with their local [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) service center](#) before the applicable deadline. July 15th is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of program benefits.

If crops are covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, acreage reports should be submitted by the applicable state, county, or crop-specific reporting deadline or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting begins. For more information, please [click here](#).

July is KY Grown Cut Flower Month

PRESENTED BY: Kentucky Horticulture Council, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, CENTER FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION

Join the new KY Grown Cut Flower Promotion Group on Facebook to find & learn about local growers near you!

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crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21st, 2022) or 2023 certification.

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each category of eligible costs. A higher payment rate has been set for socially disadvantaged, lim-

ited resource, beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers. Details about the payment rates and limitations can be found at farmers.gov/food-safety.

Applying for Assistance

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27th, 2022, through January 31st, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the [FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program \(FSCSC\) application](#). The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Producers can visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find their local FSA office. Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to assist.

Heat safety tool now available

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

The warmer days of the growing season are here, and with them the potential for heat-illness among outdoor workers. Since the human body primarily cools itself through evaporation of sweat, when the air grows nearer to its saturation point, the sweat on our skin takes longer to evaporate and cool us.

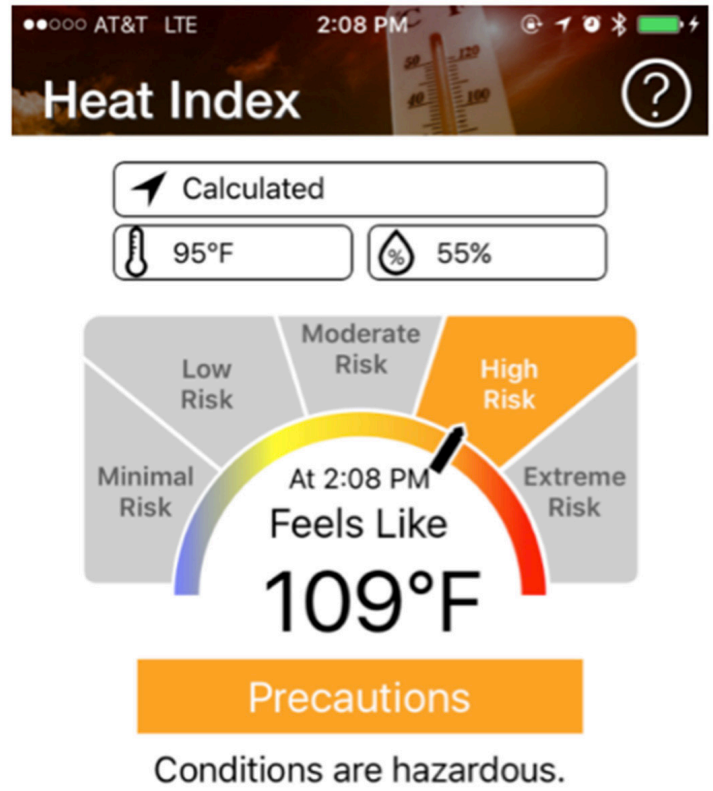
The combination of high heat and high humidity (a high heat index) can quickly overwhelm this biological mechanism and create danger for outdoor workers. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have collaborated to develop a free mobile app (available for Android and iOS) that updates in real time to help workers and supervisors calculate the heat index and risk level for outdoor workers at the job site.

In one click, users can get reminders about recommended protective measures that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness. These include recommendations on frequency/scheduling of rest breaks, fluid intake, emergency planning, work operation adjustment, monitoring and recognizing heat-illness signs & symptoms, and gradual building of workload for new workers. As a reminder, working in full sun-

Next KSU Small-Scale Farm Grant Program deadline coming up Aug. 1st

From the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD)

The Kentucky State University Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families (KSU-CSFF) Small-Scale Farm Grant Program was established to support the expansion of certain types of agriculture in Kentucky, especially among underserved groups. Priority areas for the grant are Aquaculture/Aquaponics, Certified Organic Agriculture, Value-Added Enterprise, Food Insecure Area Production, Agroforestry, and Farmer Education Assistance. Deadlines are Aug. 1st, Oct. 1st, and Dec. 1st. For details, [click here](#).



light can increase heat index values by 15°F.

For Spanish-speaking farmworkers and supervisors, the Heat Tool is available in English and Spanish and will display in whichever language the phone is set to.

Resources

Heat Safety Tool Homepage:

<https://www.osha.gov/heat/heat-app>

Department of Labor, OSHA Page for Heat Illness Prevention: <https://www.osha.gov/heat>

Thanks for reading!

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