



2nd Annual Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference

Community Farm Alliance, Grow Appalachia, Hindman Settlement School, Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, Kentucky State University, and the University of Kentucky partner to offer a conference in eastern Kentucky that will bring speakers from across the state to share their knowledge on a variety of topics. The Conference serves as a networking event for Eastern Kentucky farmers and brings resources to the region that will help them grow in their production practices.

WHAT: 2018 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference

WHEN: Thursday, February 22nd- Friday, February 23rd, 2018

WHERE: Hindman Settlement School & the Knott Opportunity Center
Hindman, KY

On February of 2017, several statewide partners planned and hosted the first ever Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference at Hindman Settlement School and the Knott Opportunity. In attendance were over 100 farmers, friends, service providers, and organizational representatives from across the state. Speakers gave presentations and engaged around a variety of topics including: social media marketing, food safety and value added, fiber production, season extension, mobile processing units, cold storage, aquaculture, chickens and egg certification, mushrooms, food access and many more. Participants left the two-day conference with resources, tools, and contacts to help them grow in their own production. But, most importantly they left feeling better connected to each other, as Eastern Kentuckians, and as farmers.

One 2017 participant even said: They enjoyed “connecting with purchasers and networking. There was a level of transparency/honesty from all the speakers, that

is rare at conferences. People were not afraid to share challenges or things that hadn't worked for them." They even reported that not even two weeks after the conference that their farm "directly benefitted [with] over \$3K in purchases that were a direct result of contacts from the conference". Lastly, this participant closed their comments with this statement: "I came away from it feeling energized/excited, and just overall, got a LOT of value for the time spent (perhaps more than any other conference that I've attended, and I've attended lots). Thank you for the investment in our region."

This year the conference will be held, once again, at Hindman Settlement School and the Knott Opportunity Center on February 22nd and 23rd starting at 8:00 am each day. Topics for this year's conference include: vegetable production and planning, small ruminant production, selling in today's digital market, approaching buyers, value added products, organics, fiber, maple syrup, and many more that you won't want to miss.

Pre-registration for the 2018 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference ends Thursday, February 8th. If you need lodging, you must preregister. Lodging registration also ends Thursday, February 8th.

Day-of registrations are also available via cash or check.

Registration includes breakfast and lunch both days and dinner on Thursday. *Local farmers and producers will be priority when sourcing for meals.*

Any cancellations after Friday, February 9 will not be eligible for a registration fee refund.

To register please visit the online event page at <http://cfaky.org/event/2018-eky-farmer-conference/>

For additional questions about the conference please contact:

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