

Welcome to

Organic Association of Kentucky's 2020 Virtual Lazy Eight Stock Farm Tour

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to view the
full
recording
of this "live
event" on
YouTube



- Community of farmers & supporters advancing organic regenerative agriculture
- Farmer Field Days and **Annual Conference**
- Find-A-Farm Directory
- Consumer Education
- Transition Assistance



ORGANIC ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY

Conference

What We Do

Resources

Join + Donate

Find a Farm Directory

MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIC TRANSITION

FIND A FARM DIRECTORY

COVID-19 RESOURCES

DONATE



OAK is a community of farmers and supporters advancing organic regenerative agriculture, to improve the health of the environment and our communities. We are dedicated to growing ecological resilience, economic viability and socially just futures for Kentucky farmers through educational, technical and market resources.



2020 Farmer Education Supported By

patagonia



Round Hill Farm



2020 Virtual Field Days In Partnership with





Certified Organic Production RESOURCES

- Organic Association of Kentucky
 Transition Trainer Program
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture
 Organic Program
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 National Organic Program (NOP) and

NOP Regulations

e.g., NOP 205.202 Land requirements: ...(c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.



LAZY EIGHT STOCK FARM

- Family farm since 1947
- Certified Organic since 2012
- CSA: Community Supported Agriculture
 300 customers; weekly deliveries
- Online sales for market delivery (2020 adaptation)
- Wholesale
- Farm Crew:
 - 2 year-round employees
 - H2A and Seasonal Employees







FARM OVERVIEW

- 420 Acres in Madison, Garrard Counties
- 50 tillable acres
- Paint Lick Creek provides irrigation
- 4 High Tunnels season extension
- Heated Greenhouse grow all their own transplants





POTTING MIX

- May transplant 100 flats at a time
- Buy potting mix locally, as needed
- Mixed in a mortar mixing pan
- Combined with starter fertilizer and water



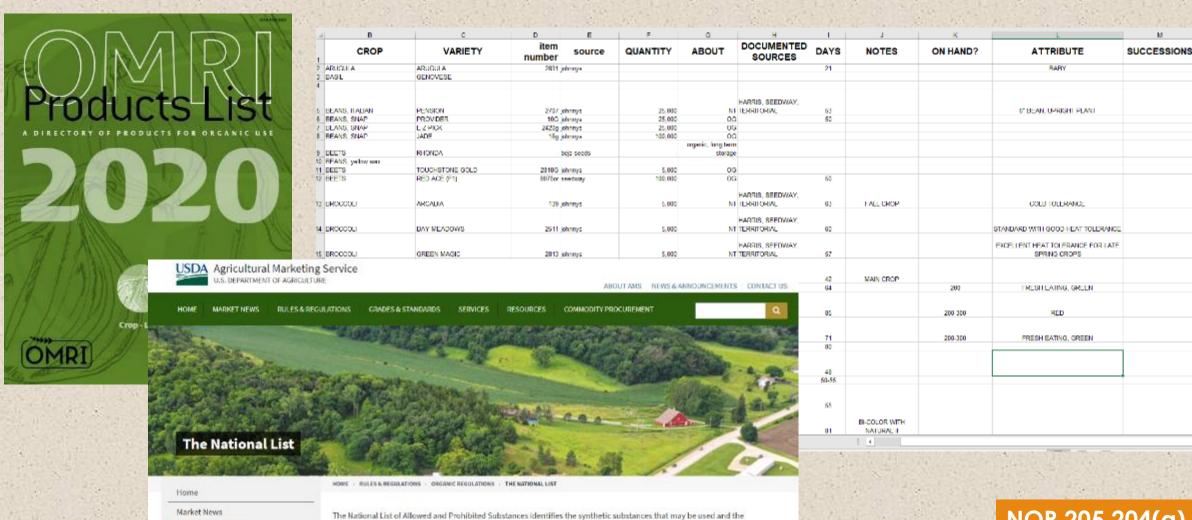
SOIL FERTILITY CONSIDERATIONS



- Soil Testing
- Availability of Nutrients
- Nutrient Balancing
- Crop Application

NOP 205.203

NOP-APPROVED SEEDS AND INPUTS



nonsynthetic (natural) substances that may not be used in organic crop and livestock production. It also identifies a limited

In general, synthetic substances are prohibited for crop and livestock production unless specifically allowed and non-synthetic

number of non-organic substances that may be used in or on processed organic products.

substances are allowed for crop and livestock production unless specifically prohibited.

NOP 205.204(a) NOP 205.203(d) NOP 205.201(a)

Rules & Regulations

Cotton and Tobacco

BE Disclosure



VACUUM SEEDER

- Used for round seeds: pelletized lettuce, onions, brassicas
- Interchangeable aluminum plate for type, size of seed
- Enables seeding quantity of plant trays quickly
- Not cheap but "pays for itself" over time
- Mounted on table; no hoses





GERMINATION MATS

- For crops that need extra heat for germination
 - melons, eggplants, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, watermelons
- Don't regulate humidity like germination chamber but allow natural sunlight
- Eight along GH wall; hold 5-6 seed flats each = 300 tomatoes/flat
- Electric controller for four mats; soil probe dials in temps to 80-85 deg F



CROP CHOICE AND PLANNING

- Labor
- Land
- Markets
 - CSA
 - 20+ weeks of vegetables
 - Planting every week
 - Wholesale market



FARM DESIGN AND PLANNING

Field choice

- "Lay of the Land"
- Crop Suitability
- Rotations





FIELD LAYOUT AND BUFFERS

- Standardized beds and field sizes eliminates overthinking
 - 500' long, 6' center to center; 8 beds + rows = 50' wide
- 12' buffer: solid base to drive on, even when wet;
 - prevents erosion; keeps water from washing into beds





CROP ROTATIONS

- Created rotations too complex at beginning
- Learned about the farm, land characteristics: frost pockets, wet areas
- Learned to group crops w/similar characteristics: soil types, drainage, climate
- Build crop size based on market needs: customer size, diversity of markets



EQUIPMENT and CULTIVATION









LETTUCE

- Spring lettuce in final harvest (late June) after 4-5 spring plantings
- Black plastic, laid mid-March
 - allows harvest in wet spring weather even after a rain
 - keeps heads clean for morning harvest directly into cooler; no washing
- Summer lettuce on white plastic: keeps crop cooler
- Wholesale lettuce (4,000/week) + diversity for CSA (300-400/week)





TOMATOES

- Heirloom tomatoes: Florida weave, on T posts
- Indeterminate: will grow as high as they can, then drop
- Plastic mulch, with drip tape irrigation
- Flail mow between mowing for weed management





POTATOES

- Cut 2500lb seed potatoes for 1 acre for CSA
- Homemade potato planter
- Buffalo cultivator with sweeps for hilling
- Aggressive cultivator twice + once with Danish time cultivator;
 Hand-weeded once





BEAN TRELLISING

- Heirloom NT half runners for CSA
- 150' long; 6' between planting rows
- Direct seeded, growing on trellis, pick for 4 weeks
 - 7' T-posts and Earth Anchors 5/16 cable top and bottom
 - Holds weight of crop + wind
- DIY Trellising tool: 8lb boxes tomato tie twine, duct-taped to board





CABBAGE and KOHLRABI

- Grow brassicas together w/similar # growth days: cabbage, kohlrabi
- Transplanted in late March
- Cultivated 4 times: more aggressive each time
- No cultivation just prior to harvest + plastic = clean crop; less labor





PEST MANAGEMENT IN BRASSICAS

- Red Russian kale for wholesale
- Wholesale = quick growth, good yield, good shelf life, NO BUGS!
- Cabbage moth is challenge for brassicas
- Offset boom sprayer 4 rows at a time
- Dry powder BT bacteria that disrupts digestive tract of worms



HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION











FIELD to COOLER Many moving parts!



CUSTOMIZED CSA = CUSTOMER CHOICE





LAZY EIGHT STOCK FARM



THE FARM | CSA | FARMERS' MARKET | FARMLOG | PASTURE RAISED TURKEYS | ONLINE FARM STAND - ORDER TODAY

We know for CSA to work for us, it needs to work for you!

WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER CUSTOMIZED BOXES, GIVING YOU SOME FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE ABOUT THE ITEMS IN YOUR WEEKLY SHARE.

HOW IT WORKS:



EARLY SUMMER SHARE from LAZY EIGHT STOCK FARM - SWEET BASIL, ZUCCHWIJ, ZYPHER SQUASH, CUUMBER, BEETS, CILANTRO, DYLL, TOMATOES, RLD POTATOES Each week, all shares will be planned with core items and preference items.

The share contents list will be posted early in the week, giving you time to review and determine your preference items from a list of available options.

PACKING TATSOI FOR FALL CSA SHARES

Core items will by those we know everyone typically eats, e.g., tomatoes.

potatoes, sweet corn, and beans. Every now and then will include something uncommon to introduce you to new produce. **Preference items** will include things we know are popular with some people, e.g., arugula, beets, peas, and green onlons.

If you are happy with our standard share, no need to communicate with us. Requests for customized shares must be received within a time frame, allowing us to harvest and pack your special request.

At the pick-up site, we will also have a "swap box", for those who would like to trade out a core item. Simply choose the item you want to replace, put it in the swap bin and get your new selection from the bin.

"Thanks for taking the extra time to allow us to make some choices each week" - Longtime Lazy Eight CSA Customer, 2018



CUSTOM PACK CSA

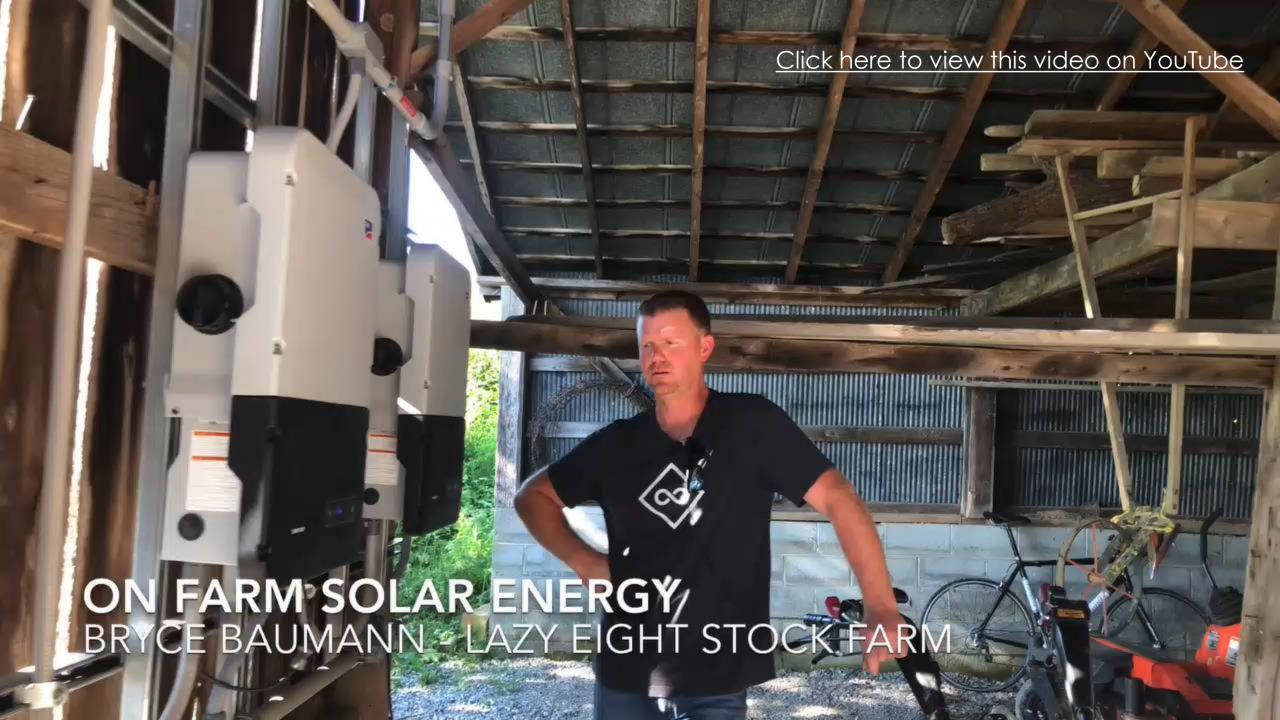
- Customers choose each week from current inventory
- Farm receives "pick list" telling how much to harvest
- "Pick list" lists produce with how it's packed in the box, e.g., heaviest first
- Customer orders matched to truck loading order
- Standardized units for customer choice: head of..., pound of..., bag of ...



GREENHOUSE W/ HEATED FLOOR



LAZY EIGHT VIRTUAL FARM TOUR



ON-FARM SOLAR

- Conscious of impact, energy required to grow food
 - Farm uses lots of electricity: walk-in coolers, etc
- Solar array offsets all farm usage
- USDA REAP grant and GOAP on-farm energy 75% of cost
- MACED assisted with design, application process





LAZY EIGHT STOCK FARM



CONTACTS



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- OAK Transition Trainer Program:
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ORGANIC RESOURCES

USDA Tip Sheets on Organic Standards

ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program

eOrganic

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

- Crop Rotations on Organic Farms <u>free book download</u>
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably <u>free book download</u>

Regenerative Organic Alliance

OGRAIN

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

The Organic Center

Center for Crop Diversification (CCD) at University of Kentucky

- Organic Certification Process <u>publication</u>
- Organic Regulations and Resources <u>publication</u>
- Organic Crop Profiles & Selected Publications

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Organic Program







Questions? Feedback?

Click here to let us know!

Thank you!