

KY NUTRIENT NEWS

National Engagement

Representatives from EEC, including Deputy Secretary John Lyons, met representatives from federal and state agencies of the Hypoxia Task Force in Fayetteville, Arkansas on December 6th & 7th 2023. Kentucky provided an update of Kentucky's nutrient progress and engaged other agencies and organizations, including the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority, American Farm Bureau, and the Mississippi River Network.



UPDATES

- The [2023 Hypoxia Task Force Report to Congress](#) is out and includes updates from Kentucky, surrounding states, and federal partners.
- DOW secured new resources to promote best practices for lawn fertilizer in municipal settings. If your agency or organization is interested in digital or physical education materials, contact Paulette Akers (paulette.akers@ky.gov).

KEEP PHOSPHORUS OFF THE GRASS. Use a zero phosphorus lawn fertilizer for healthier waters.



- Nutrient workgroups will resume in March of 2024 with a focus on stakeholder input for the final round of Gulf Hypoxia Program funding. DOW is also looking for partners to host a meeting either the first or second quarter of 2024. If you are interested in hosting a quarterly meetings, contact Josiah Frey (josiah.frey@ky.gov).
- EPA released a pre-publication of proposed [effluent guidelines](#) for meat and poultry processors on [December 15, 2023](#). Public hearings will be held on January 24th and January 31st. Refer to EPA's [website](#) to register or attend.

EVENTS

- DOW's Drinking Water & Clean Water Advisory Workgroup will meet January 9th at 10AM in Frankfort and virtually. Contact Josiah Frey for more information (josiah.frey@ky.gov).
- Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention will be hosted [January 11th-12th](#) in Lexington.
- Kentucky Commodity Conference will be hosted [January 18th](#) in Bowling Green.
- UK is hosting farm shop talks to troubleshoot on-farm challenges with improving soil and water resources. The first season of these weekly, virtual meet-ups will take place on Thursdays, January 18th and 25th, and February 1st at 11:30am CT / 12:30 ET. Learn more and register here: <https://goodideafarm.org/shop-talks/>
- Kentucky Pork Producers Annual Meeting will be held [January 19th](#) in Bowling Green.
- The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) Annual Conference will be held [January 25th-27th](#) in Frankfort.
- The Owensboro Agriculture Expo will be held on [January 31st](#) in Owensboro.
- ORSANCO's [Ohio River Discussion Series](#) kicks off January 31st with subsequent webinars on February 28th and March 27th.

RESEARCH & NEWS LINKS

- [From toilets to lazy lawn care, a local nonprofit works to protect a Northern Kentucky watershed \(soapboxmedia.com\)](#)
- [Warren County Stormwater Management unveils erosion project on Drakes Creek \(wbko.com\)](#)
- [Study: Extreme rainfall increases ag nutrient runoff, conservation strategies can help | Illinois Extension | UIUC](#)
- EPA released a [Nutrient Pollution Module](#) and [Hazard Mitigation Module](#) that build on existing [Watershed Academy](#) resources for water professionals.
- NOAA's latest [Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) forecasts dry conditions across Kentucky and surrounding states for the period ending in March 2024.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Mini-grants are available for Kentucky farmers and farm advisors to implement low-cost edge-of-field conservation practices via One Good Idea. Grants up to \$8,000 will be awarded in February. The application deadline is January 15, 2024. To apply online visit: <https://www.reach.msstate.edu/grant-application.php>.

