

Have you been producing nursery crops fewer than 10 years?

If so, you may be interested in **KyFarmStart**. The following program description is from the **KyFarmStart** website (emphasis below is added):

The University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University in collaboration with Kentucky Women in Agriculture and the Kentucky Beef Network launched a comprehensive beginning farmer effort in January, 2010. As



part of this program, the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University have initiated a **new extension program targeting beginning farmers**.

KyFarmStart is funded through the USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Program. This intensive education program is targeting those individuals who have ten years or less farming experience. The program is designed as a whole farm management education program for beginning farmers, providing a basic foundation of **production, marketing, management, and networking** which are necessary for beginning farmers to succeed in today's dynamic agriculture environment.

KyFarmStart is designed as a **two-year producer education program**. In year 1, producers will participate in a series of 12 face to face education programs, including nine traditional county extension meetings and three on-farm demonstrations/farm field day experiences. Additionally, all of the curriculum will be made available as an on-line course to provide all producers the opportunity to take part in the program, even if they are unable to attend the classroom portion. Producers may choose to **participate in the classroom education, on-line, or both**. In year 2, producers will be matched with a successful farmer mentor.

The **mentorship program** will work with beginning farmers to connect them with experienced farmers with a similar enterprise interest, so that they will have a mentor that understands the challenges, both production and financial, that the operation will face. This will assist producers in translating the knowledge gained in the classroom to on-farm practical experiences. Kentucky Women in Agriculture and the Kentucky Cattleman's Association will assist in the identification and training of mentors.

The goal of the **KyFarmStart** program is to assist clientele in evaluating their land, labor, and other resources in an effort to make **management decisions that are profitable** for their operation. Through this process, producers will learn about enterprise identification, management, marketing, farm safety, and production. One of the primary goals of both programs is to assist producers in developing a whole farm management plan.



Click here to view a short video about

KyFarmStart and to find more information about the program.

