

MULTI-STATE MEETING (WERA)

Urban Agriculture and Food Systems: Research & Extension Planning Meeting

WERA 1053

Meeting Purpose and Objectives

WERA 1053 provides a coordinated effort to help investigators and Extension professionals communicate and coordinate Research, Education, and Extension (REE) activities across disciplinary, organizational, and geographic boundaries. The meeting will focus on team building and setting shared priorities in urban agriculture and food systems, including opportunities for multi-state, multi-disciplinary funding proposals.

- Introduce WERA 1053 and its role within the Hatch multi-state portfolio.
- Connect investigators and Extension professionals working in urban agriculture and food systems.
- Identify shared Research, Education, and Extension priorities.
- Explore opportunities for multi-state and multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- Begin developing ideas for future funding proposals and coordinated activities.
- Identify next set of leaders for the WERA

Registration

The WERA 1053 meeting is being held in conjunction with the Urban Food System Symposium (UFSS) in Kansas City Sept 14-17. We encourage you attend the entire symposium and stay for the WERA meeting on Sept 17. Learn more about the UFSS and to register at: <https://urbanfoodsystemssymposium.org/>. You are not required to attend the symposium to attend the WERA meeting.

If you are NOT attending the UFSS, and only plan to attend the WERA meeting, please register here: [WERA 1053: Urban Agriculture and Food Systems 2026 Annual Meeting Registration – Fill out form](#)

Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic / Discussion Focus
8:00 – 9:10 AM	Welcome and Introductions Paul Priyesh, University of Kentucky; Brad Gaolach, Washington State University

9:10 – 9:25 AM	<p>Overview of WERA 1053 Introduction to WERA 1053, its connection to the Hatch multi-state portfolio, and the purpose of coordinated multi-state REE activities.</p>
9:25 – 9:50	<p>WERA 1053 in Context with other efforts Provide an overview of other urban agriculture and food system related activities / organizations within the land-grant system</p>
9:50 – 10:20 AM	<p>Participant Updates and Institutional Perspectives Brief updates from participating institutions, including current projects, Extension efforts, research interests, and potential collaboration areas. Representatives from NIFA, APLU, and NRCS will be invited to give updates</p>
10:20 – 10:30 AM	<p>Break</p>
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<p>Research, Education, and Extension Planning Identify shared priorities, opportunities for coordinated programming, and strategies to strengthen communication across disciplinary, organizational, and geographic boundaries.</p>
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Next Steps and Closing Discussion Summarize key discussion points, identify action items, discuss future meeting structure, and outline opportunities for continued engagement and identification of WERA leadership.</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Adjourn, Lunch on your own w/ ability to continue discussions based on departure times.</p>

For more information you can contact Paul Priyesh (paul.v@uky.edu) or Brad Gaolach (gaolach@wsu.edu).