



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

An organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system

Advanced Technical Workshops for Organic Dairy and Livestock Producers at NOFA Vermont's 27th Annual Winter Conference

A full day of advanced technical workshops for Vermont's organic dairy and livestock producers will be held on Saturday, February 14th as part of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's 27th Annual Winter Conference. The two-day conference will be held on February 14th and 15th on the campus of Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center.

The advanced technical workshops are intended for commercial farmers who are interested in new ideas, practices and strategies that can help them improve the efficiency and profitability of their farm businesses. The day's schedule includes:

Two workshops by Karen Hoffman, Resource Conservationist for Animal Science at the USDA-NRCS, entitled "*Making the Best of Stored Forages*" and "*Maximizing Intake and Balancing Rations on Pasture: Animal Behavior and Management*".

Guy Jodarski DVM, Staff Veterinarian for Organic Valley will present two workshops on "*Herd Health for the Organic Dairy*", with separate sessions devoted to treatment options and disease prevention practices in calves and in mature dairy animals.

Two workshops will be offered on-farm grain production to reduce purchased feed costs: "*On-Farm Grain Production in Vermont: Crop Selection, Economics, and Cultural Practices*" and "*On Farm Grain Production: Equipment for Planting, Production, Harvest, and Storage*". These workshops will be presented by commercial grain producers Peter Martens, Penn Yan, New York and Ben Gleason, Gleason Grains, Bridport, Vt. Dr. Heather Darby, UVM Extension's Field Crops & Nutrient Management Specialist will discuss the results of ongoing Vermont field trials and research.

Two lunch-hour Roundtable Discussions will be facilitated by NOFA's Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program staff: "*Forecasting the Dollars and Cents of Change*", a discussion of farm budget planning (Willie Gibson) and "*Winter Feed and Feeding*" – winter feeding and ration balancing strategies (Sarah Flack).

Saturday morning's Keynote Address, "The Hardwick Model: Rebuilding a Healthy Food System" will be given by Andrew Meyer, managing partner of Vermont Soy; President of the Hardwick Enterprise Group, LLC.



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Pre-registration for the Advanced Technical Workshops on Saturday, February 14th is highly recommended (\$40/person NOFA-members; \$50 non-members). Refreshments will be provided; lunch will be available for purchase, \$8 (no charge for those who bring a potluck dish to share).

Contact Samuel Fuller, NOFA-VT's Dairy and Livestock Program, for further information -- 802-434-4122 (NOFA office); sam@nofavt.org

Go to www.nofavt.org for the complete two-day NOFA Winter Conference program schedule with over 60 workshops, presentations and events. Join the Celebration!