

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Lawrence Andres (Harmony Organics; Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario):**

Mr. Andres was born in Canada but was raised and educated in Switzerland. Upon his return Ontario in 1978, he purchased a dairy farm and immediately converted it to organic production making it the first organic dairy farm in Canada. He founded the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario and initiated the EFAO short courses in ecological agriculture. His example and his teachings have inspired farmers in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. He also started Harmony Organic Dairy which processes fluid milk in returnable glass bottles, cartons and bags in a bio-regional market ([www.harmonyorganic.on.ca](http://www.harmonyorganic.on.ca)).

**Jim Riddle (Organic Outreach Coordinator, University of Minnesota):** Since January 2006, Mr. Riddle has held an appointment as the endowed chair of Agricultural Systems at the University of Minnesota. Over the past 25 years, he has been an organic farmer, gardener, inspector, educator, policy analyst, author, activist, and avid organic eater. He and his wife, Joyce, live off the grid, producing all of their power from the sun, wind, and woods. They raise a huge garden and put up much of their own food. Mr. Riddle was founding chair of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association, (IOIA), and co-author of the IFOAM/IOIA International Organic Inspection Manual. He has trained hundreds of organic inspectors throughout the world. Mr. Riddle has served on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Organic Advisory Task Force since 1991, and was instrumental in passage of Minnesota's landmark organic certification cost-share program. He is former chair of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board, and is a leading voice for organic agriculture.

**Brian Baker, Ph.D. (Research Director, Organic Materials Review Institute).** Dr. Baker has been affiliated with OMRI since its founding in 1997. After growing up on a small family farm in Upstate New York, he went on to receive both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. Dr. Baker has experience as an organic farm inspector, certification program administrator, once served on the National Organic Standards Board, and later with OMRI coordinated the NOSB's Technical Advisory Panel under contract to the USDA.

**Hubert Karreman, VMD (Penn Dutch Cow Care):** Dr. Karreman has been a dairy practitioner in Lancaster County, PA for the past 11 years and works with 85 certified and transitioning organic herds. Within the last year, he has been an invited speaker at the annual meetings of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, Maine Veterinary Medical Association and the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. He is author of *Treating Dairy Cows Naturally* (Acres USA, 2007) and has authored chapters in *The Veterinary Clinics of North America*, *Veterinary Herbal Medicine*, *Global Perspectives of Organic Agriculture*, and *Alternative Livestock Health Practices*.

**Jim Gardiner** operates a certified organic dairy farming with his wife Nancy and their three youngest children in Otselic, NY. During the past 16 year, they have worked at finding alternatives to synthetic medications through the use of vitamins, minerals and herbal foods to help their livestock recover from 'dis-ease'. Jim is a board member and New York producer representative for the Northeast Organic Dairy Producer's Alliance.

**Trevor Adams, MRCVS, VetMFHom (Homeopathy at Wellie Level, UK):** Mr. Adams qualified as a veterinarian from Bristol, UK and spent his professional life in General Practice in Glastonbury, Somerset UK in a predominantly dairy practice. He started using homeopathy in 1988 and achieved the Vet Homeopathy qualification in 1992. Mr. Adams retired from general practice in 2001 and now offers a consultancy in Homeopathy and Acupuncture for all species.

**Sue Miles RSHom (Homeopathy at Wellie Level, UK).** Ms. Miles was raised on a 600 acre mixed conventional beef and sheep. She received an honours degree from London University and then later went on to study for the Agricultural and Veterinary Pharmacy diploma of the Royal Pharm Society of Great Britain. During her research on zoonotic diseases there she was introduced to veterinary homeopathy and began to study and employ it in her practice. Ms. Miles eventually established a pharmacy in rural Leicestershire from where she assists and supplies farmers with both conventional and homeopathic treatments for their animals. She received training in homeopathy and treats both humans and animals.

**Ann Wells, DVM (Springpond Holistic Animal Health):** Dr. Wells received her degree from Oklahoma State University and has fifteen years experience in producing and selling organic grassfed beef and lamb. Currently, she lives in Arkansas and works with farmers and educators across the country to develop sustainable animal health management plans through controlled grazing and stress reducing techniques. Dr. Wells feels strongly that the health of the animal is tied to the health of the soil and the plants.

**Gary Zimmer, M.S. (Midwestern Bio-Ag):** Mr. Zimmer is a farmer, author, agri-businessman and educator dedicated to biological and organic agriculture. The Zimmers' 1,200 acre Wisconsin organic farm (Otter Creek Organic Farm) includes a 200 cow dairy, plus pasture raised beef, hogs and poultry, and vegetables. Gary is recognized around the world for his dedication to improving farming through restoring and balancing soils and has spoken to farm groups across the U.S. and in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe. He also operates the Bio-Ag Learning Center where biological farming practices and agricultural products are field tested.

**Jerry Brunetti (Managing Director of Agri-Dynamics):** Mr. Brunetti founded Agri-Dynamics in 1979, a company offering organically approved vitamins, herbs, probiotics, digestive enzymes and bovine colostrum whey supplements. He lectures to both nation and internationally on the importance of soil health in raising quality feeds and healthy animals.

**Juan S. Velez, M.V., M.S., DACT (Aurora Organic Dairy):** Dr. Velez was born and raised in Colombia South America and graduated from Veterinary School in 1988 from The University of La Salle, in Colombia. He received a Master of Science in physiology of Reproduction from Texas A&M University in 1990 and following a residency in production Medicine from the University of Florida in 1993 he became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenology. Currently, Dr. Velez is the Vice-President of Farm Operations for Aurora Organic Dairy.

**Ynte Schukken, DVM, MS, PhD (Quality Milk Production Services, Cornell University):** Dr. Schukken received his education from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands and has been director of QMPS since 1999. He is also a professor of Epidemiology at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. His research focus has been in the application of epidemiology on animal disease research, particularly udder health.

**Sarah Flack (Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Vermont):** Ms. Flack grew up on a grass based farm, and for the past 15 years has worked with grass based and organic farms as assistant herd manager, relief milker and as a consultant. Much of her recent work is assisting dairy farmers with their transition to organic production through on farm visits, writing and public speaking. She works with NOFA Vermont's Organic Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program, and is the author of *Organic Dairy Production*.