

Understanding Organics and Grazing: Livestock Health and Management II Speaker Bios

Roger Allbee, Secretary Vermont State Agriculture, Food

and Markets--Vermont Governor James Douglas appointed Roger Allbee as Secretary of Agriculture, Foods and Markets on January 1, 2007. Mr. Allbee had most recently served as the State Executive Director of Farm Agency Services in Vermont. His accomplishments are extensive and vary from serving as a Senior International Business Consultant for agricultural trade policy to serving as a professional staff member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture. His previous experience includes Vice President of the former Farm Credit Banks in Springfield, Massachusetts and as an Extension specialist at Cornell University.



Mr. Allbee's educational background reflects his commitment to the continued advancement of the industry of agriculture. Allbee received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Vermont and a master's in Agricultural Economics from the University of Massachusetts. He has completed the Cornell University Agricultural Executives Program and the Harvard Business School Agribusiness Seminars. He has received numerous awards including the Outstanding Alumni Award, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences from the University of Vermont and the Honor Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America. Allbee served in the U.S. Army in the Special Weapons division with a Rank of Captain.

Recently, USDA Secretary Edward Shafer appointed Mr. Allbee to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) in Animals and Animal Products. In this role, he provide technical advice on U.S. agricultural trade issues to the USDA secretary and the United States Trade Representative playing a significant role in shaping U.S. agricultural trade policy. Mr. Allbee has previously chaired this committee.

The Vermont State Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets provides leadership for one of Vermont's largest industries, agriculture, and administers numerous regulatory, food safety and consumer protection programs for the benefit of Vermonters.



Regina Beidler—Regina and her husband, Brent, own and operate a 35 cow organic dairy farm in Randolph Center, VT. They purchased their 145 acre farm in 1998 and completed the transition to organic production in the spring of 2000. Since that time they have been member- owners of Organic Valley/ CROPP cooperative. In addition to dairy the Beidlers have also begun small scale production of small grain, oilseed and other crops including: wheat, canola, camelina, dried beans and corn for human consumption as well as Japanese Millet for seed.

Regina is a board member of NOFA VT and is also the East Coast Regional Leader for Organic Valley's Farmer Ambassador program. This program links the farmer owners at Organic Valley with retail, consumer and media events in order to connect farmers and consumers



Emily Brown-Rosen-- Emily Brown Rosen (B.S., M.S. Rutgers, Ag Science and Horticulture) has been involved in organic certification, technical support to farmers, and materials review since 1992. She works as Policy Director for Pennsylvania Certified Organic, a USDA accredited certification agency with over 500 clients, including 230 dairy operations. Emily serves on the Advisory Council for the Organic Materials Review Institute, and previously worked for OMRI as Policy Director. She is an active participant in public comments to the NOSB and USDA National Organic Program, and serves on advisory boards for CCOF (CA Certified Organic Farmers), NOFA-NJ (Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. of NJ) and MOSA (Midwest Organic Services Assoc.).

Jerry Brunetti-- Jerry's vast experience with farming, animal nutrition, and his own health has led him to explore the links between healthy soil, truly nutritious food, and profitable, sustainable farming. His skill for communicating his experience and knowledge with people has won him extensive praise from holistic health professionals, sustainable farming organizations, and many farmers and consumers. He is a highly-demanded lecturer and speaker, nationally and internationally. Jerry studied Animal Science at North Carolina State University and has served as Regional Dairy Director of the National Farmers Organization. His current business, Agri-Dynamics offers holistic livestock remedies and feed supplements as well as ecologically minded horticultural products. He serves on the Lower Mt. Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council, and is active in other community-based organizations devoted to rebuilding local food systems and local democracy. In 2008 Jerry received the Leadership Award from The Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA).



Heather Darby, PhD -- Dr. Heather Darby is an Agronomic and Soils Specialist for the University of Vermont Extension. Heather is involved with implementing many research and outreach programs in the areas of fuel, forage, and grain production systems in New England. Heather also operates a diversified certified organic farm with her partner Ron Hermann.

Glen Dupree, DVM (For the Animals)-- Dr. Dupree is a 1982 graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine and later completed professional and advanced courses in Veterinary Homeopathy. He has qualified as a Certified Veterinary Homeopath through the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy.





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Frances Flower, PhD-- Frances gained her MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and received her Ph.D in Animal Welfare at the University of British Columbia, Canada in 2006. Frances has special expertise in dairy cattle lameness and lameness identification techniques which have been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences. Frances' activities as a Research Associate with Whole Foods Market include the development of technical resources and outreach for producers, on-farm research projects, and producer

Karen Hoffman-- Karen works for USDA-NRCS, with over 15 years of experience providing technical assistance and education to dairy and livestock farmers on grazing-based nutrition, as well as organic dairy and grazing. She provides on-farm assistance with feeding programs, and speaks at pasture walks, workshops, and conferences. Karen also writes articles for various publications, and is a co-author of *Prescribed Grazing and Feeding Management for Lactating Dairy Cows* and NOFA-NY's Organic Dairy Transition materials.



Patrick Hooker, NY Commissioner of Agriculture—As its Commissioner, Patrick Hooker oversees the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, addressing issues of economic development, environmental stewardship, and food safety to ensure agriculture remains a significant contributor to New York's economy and quality of life. Commissioner Hooker came to the Department with a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion for the State's agricultural industry. Previously working for New York Farm Bureau for 16 years, He was the farm advocacy organization's top lobbyist, serving as Director of the Public Policy Division. During his first year in office, Commissioner Hooker has made revitalizing the state's rural and agricultural economy a priority for their administration. That included \$30 million in emergency funding for the state's struggling dairy farmers and a record \$34 million in state funding for farmland protection programs.

Richard "Doc" Holliday, DVM-- Richard J. Holliday received his DVM degree from the University of Missouri in 1959 and conducted a private mixed practice in NW Missouri for 25 years. He is currently the Senior Veterinary Consultant for Helfter Feeds, Inc, of Osco, Illinois. Dr. Holliday became certified as a Veterinary Acupuncturist in 1988 and was President of the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society for a 2 year term from 1992 to 1994. Holliday has been actively involved in promoting organic agriculture and holistic veterinary medicine for over 40 years.





Hubert Karreman, VMD-- dairy practitioner working with 85 certified and transitioning organic herds in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He is author of *Treating Dairy Cows* and is a member of the National Organic Standards Board. He will share his veterinary expertise on treating common bovine health problems.

Rick Kersbergen-- Rick is an Extension Professor with the University of Maine. He works closely with the Maine Organic Milk Producers and is currently working on several funded research projects on organic dairy systems and profitability



Anne Malleau-- Anne Malleau has studied and worked in applied animal welfare for over 10 years. Anne completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Major: Animal Science), and a Master of Science in Animal Behaviour and Welfare at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. After working for a couple years, Anne returned to the University of Guelph to complete the Residential Master of Business Administration in Agribusiness. Anne began her career with the Austin, TX based Whole Foods Market as Executive Director of the Animal Compassion Foundation (*A Whole Foods Market Foundation*), and now works with the Purchasing Department as the Assistant Global Meat Co-ordinator. Anne also sits on several farm animal welfare advisory and

technical boards in Canada and in the US.

Arden Nelson, DVM— Dr. Nelson assists wife and partner, Dr. Marguerita Cattell in the running of their certified organic, grass fed dairy in Windsor, Colorado. Downsizing from producing organic milk for Organic Valley in 2007, all products are marketed directly to cow share owning consumers in the form of raw milk, cottage cheese, cream, butter, cultured buttermilk, yogurt, and mozzarella cheese. Dr. Nelson also ran *Syn-apps rd*, a dairy consulting business, with Dr. Marguerita Cattell. *Syn-apps rd* worked with dairy clients located in Colorado, Nebraska, New York, and Texas. Services included information management, reproduction and udder health consulting, and nutrition management assistance.



Robertt Parsons—Bob is an Extension ag economist at the University of Vermont specializing in farm business management. Bob is from a 40 cow dairy farm in PA and obtained his PhD at the University of Vermont. Bob has led research on the profitability of organic dairy farms in Vermont and Maine.



J. Keith Waldron—Keith is the Livestock and Field Crops Coordinator for NYS Integrated Pest Management. He received his M.S. from North Carolina State University and has been the Livestock and Field Crops Coordinator since 1985. He works with organic and grazing herds to control flies and other external pests.