



# 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*

## PRESS RELEASE

For more information

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### **Growing Through a Recession: NOFA Vermont Annual Conference Explores Farm Innovations in Tough Economic Times**

**Richmond** – How can Vermont’s farms remain profitable during tough economic times? What does the ideal 21<sup>st</sup> century small local farm look like? What innovations will help farmers grow their businesses as well as their crops? *Grow it Here! Innovations Toward Local Food Sovereignty*, NOFA Vermont’s 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Conference will explore these questions.

“With so many innovations starting at the farm level, this conference provides a great opportunity for farmer networking and information sharing,” said Enid Wonnacott, Executive Director of NOFA Vermont. “Workshops such as *On Farm Grain Production* help farmers to be more self-reliant, protecting them from the price swings of purchased grain.”

The conference’s two keynote speakers are leading innovators in healthy food systems and independent agriculture. Andrew Meyer, organic dairy farmer and founder of the *Center for an Agricultural Economy*, will speak on Saturday. Andrew’s work in Hardwick, connecting agricultural businesses and creating a local economy based on agriculture, has recently been featured in *The New York Times*. Sunday’s conference features Eliot Coleman, co-owner of Four Season Farm in Maine, whose work extending the growing season and meeting the demand for local food in the winter has opened up new markets for farmers.

“The innovations highlighted at the conference will showcase the important role of local and organic farmers toward food security in Vermont,” said Wonnacott. “These innovations rely on an understanding of the complex ecology of the farm and dynamic networks of collaborating business, community organizations, and farmers.”



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The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Conference will be held February 14 and 15 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. In addition to the technical workshops designed for commercial farmers, the conference features over 60 workshops for homesteaders, gardeners, educators, and eaters. More information is available online at [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org).

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*NOFA Vermont, working for local farms, healthy food,  
and strong communities since 1971.*