



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Meg Klepack, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

802-434-4122

meg@nofavt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 24, 2008

Grow it Here!

NOFA Vermont Winter Conference to Explore Food Sovereignty

Richmond – *Grow It Here: Innovations toward Local Food Sovereignty*, NOFA Vermont's 27th Annual NOFA Vermont Winter Conference will be held February 14-15, 2009 at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph. With over 1,000 farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, educators, and community members expected, this conference marks the preeminent annual gathering of Vermont's local food movement to share in two days of workshops and conversations focused on growing a vibrant, healthy, and safe local food system.

In recognition of the threats presented by relying on a global food supply and inequalities in food access, the 2009 conference will focus on how Vermont can continue to move towards food self-reliance through innovative work at the state, community, and farm level. Alternative energy use on the farm, year-round Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), and winter farmers' markets are just a few examples of how NOFA Vermont's projects are currently strengthening our local food system.

The conference will feature keynote presentations by Andrew Meyer and Eliot Coleman. **Andrew Meyer**, founder of The Center for Agricultural Economy, owner of Vermont Natural Coatings, a whey-based varnish company, and Vermont Soy, an organic soy drink and tofu company, will deliver Saturday's keynote. Andrew is creating the model in Vermont for true food sovereignty through his leadership in agricultural and community innovations in Hardwick. **Eliot Coleman** brings nearly 40 years of experience in all aspects of organic farming, including field vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, rotational grazing, and all-season production and marketing. He is the author of *The New Organic Grower*, *Four Season Harvest*, and *The Winter Harvest Manual*. He will also give an intensive workshop for commercial growers on 4-season growing and marketing.

Workshops for gardeners and commercial farmers will be offered, including Partnering with a Family Cow, The Root Cellar as Part of Home Food Production, Growing a Local Fiber Industry, and Winter Egg Production without Supplemental Light.

Future farmers can attend the **Children's Conference**, offering youth, ages 6-12, the opportunity to explore food, agriculture, and the environment. Our Children's Conference is full of interactive games and activities.

We will be sending out a registration brochure in early January. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please email the office at info@nofavt.org or give us a call at 802-434-4122. You may also download a copy of the brochure in January from the NOFA-VT website at www.nofavt.org.