



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 Commercial Vegetable and Fruit Growers NOFA Vermont Winter Conference

The 27th Annual NOFA Vermont Winter Conference will be held February 14-16, 2009 at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph. Sunday, February 15th the conference features an advanced technical workshop track for commercial vegetable and fruit growers. In addition, Eliot Coleman will be presenting a special Intensive Workshop for Advanced Growers on Monday, February 16th. The schedule of workshops is below. A schedule for the full winter conference is available online at www.nofavt.org or contact the NOFA Vermont office for a paper copy at 802-434-4122 or info@nofavt.org.

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Workshop Session 1:

9:15-10:30

Worker Protection Safety Handler Certification Training

Anne MacMillan, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Do you use organic pesticides on your farm? Have you been trained to meet the pesticide Worker Protection Standard? If not, this workshop will certify you and allow you to train your workers so your farm is in compliance with Vermont State Laws.

Better Safe than Sorry: Addressing Food Safety Issues on Your Farm

Cheryl Wixson from MOFGA, Steve Gilman from NOFA-NY, and David Rogers from NOFA Vermont

What practical, credible, and cost-effective steps might growers take to satisfy the food safety concerns of consumers, buyers, and regulators? How can growers evaluate food-safety "risks" in their operations? Regional efforts are examining these issues. The Main Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association's (MOFGA) ongoing work in developing new food-safety protocols (HAACP) for organic growers in Maine is a promising new approach for smaller-scale organic growers in the Northeast.

Alternative Greenhouse Heating Systems

Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

Have you thought about alternative fuel sources to heat your greenhouse? Not sure which system might work best for you? Vern Grubinger of the University of Vermont Extension will compare different systems based on experience from growers using alternative fuel sources in their greenhouses.



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Lunch Hour Roundtable Discussion

1:00-2:00

Growers' Favorite Efficiency Tricks – Grower Roundtable

Join this informal discussion focused on growers' best efficiency tricks. Learn practical ideas from other growers' experiences that can save you time and money on your farm.

Facilitator – Joey Klein, Littlewood Farm, Plainfield, VT.

Growers' Best Vegetable Varieties – Grower Roundtable

Tom Stearns, of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, VT, will give a 15 minute introduction to new organic varieties and then facilitate a growers' roundtable. Join this informal discussion on growers' favorite vegetable varieties. Learn tips for the best varieties for different soil and field conditions.

Growers' Experiences with EQIP, AMA, and Other NRCS/USDA Programs – Grower Roundtable

Join this informal discussion focused on growers' experience with USDA/NRCS programs that help farmers by paying for practices like cover cropping, rotations, and more. A 15-minute program introduction will be given by NRCS staff.

Facilitator – David Marchant of River Berry Farm in Fairfax, VT.

Workshop Session 2:

2:15-5:00

New and Emerging Pest and Disease Problems and Organic Management

Ann Hazelrigg, University Vermont Extension; Jon Turmel, Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets; and Eric Sideman, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Ann Hazelrigg from the University of Vermont Extension and Jon Turmel from the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets will update you on new and emerging plant diseases and insects that can impact growing crops on your farm. Eric Sideman from the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will discuss how to best manage pests in organic vegetable production systems. A farmer-to-farmer round-table will follow.

Winter Growing, Planning, and Marketing

Becky Grube, University of New Hampshire Extension; Andy Jones, Intervale Community Farm, Burlington, VT; and Jack Manix, Walker Farm.

Which vegetables grow best in high tunnels during winter? What operations and planning is needed to grow vegetables for winter markets? How do you best market winter vegetables? These questions and more will be answered in this comprehensive session on winter growing, planning, and marketing.

Weed the Soil, Not the Crop – A Whole Farm Approach to Weed Management

Anne and Eric Nordell, Beach Grove Farm, NY

Anne and Eric Nordell, from Beach Grove Farm in Pennsylvania, have created virtually weed free conditions by rotating cover crops, tillage techniques, and bare fallow

periods. They will discuss how they have used rotational cover cropping to reduce weed pressure and highlight the minimum till practices they have developed to manage the weed seed bank in the soil. They have been growing organic vegetables, small fruits, and herbs since 1983.

Monday, February 16, 2009

Intensive Workshop for Advanced Growers with Eliot Coleman 9am-2pm

In the Vermont Technical College Old Dorm Lounge

In this workshop on winter growing, Eliot will cover the yearly schedule, winter crops, growing in the cold greenhouse, growing in the cool greenhouse, succession sowing, harvest techniques, tools for efficiency, soil nutrients and winter hardiness, and greenhouse design, plus marketing and economics.

Pre-registration is required. Contact the NOFA Vermont office for further details.