This year’s hop conference will be packed with research-based and practical information that will help you have a successful hop business.

Come and learn from experienced local growers.
Tom Barse co-owner of Stillpoint Farm in Maryland will share his hop experiences including equipment innovations, weeding with sheep, and building a farmer-brewer relationship.

Rick Pedersen from Pedersen Farms in Seneca Castle, NY will describe what it takes to scale up hop production, from labor requirements to processing and everything in between. Rick currently produces 20 acres of hops, up from 2 acres just a few years ago.

Pay attention to quality!
Zac German from Yakima-Chief Hopunion LLC will tell us tales from a hop quality testing lab, the good, the bad, and the ugly including variety trueness to type, expectations of new vs. mature root stock, cone quality and harvest timing, and picking and kilning best practices.

Are you interested in pest management in the Hopyard?
Lily Calderwood and Scott Lewins from UVM Extension’s NW Crops and Soils team will give a talk on statewide scouting and integrated pest management options including pest control products, cover crops, and varietal resistance.

Fine tuning your hop growing system!
Tim Kostelecky from John I. Haas, a leading company in hop production, will guide us through critical production and processing practices that lead to success.

Equipment innovations!
Get an update from Julian Post from UVM Extension’s NW Crops and Soils team on the latest and greatest hop harvesting equipment in our region.

Are you interested in developing a relationship with local brewers?
Local brewers will provide their perspective on how best to establish a connection with brewers in your community. Kurt Staudter from Vermont Brewers Association will facilitate a diverse panel of brewers.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu by February 6, 2015 so that we may assist you.