Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference

Thursday, March 10, 2016
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Judd Hall, Vermont Technical College
Randolph Center, Vermont

Offered in partnership with NOFA Vermont’s Dairy Technical Assistance Program

UVM Extension’s Northwest Crops & Soils Program and NOFA Vermont’s Organic Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program invite you to the 6th Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference!

We are thrilled that Iowa organic dairy farmer Francis Thicke will give the keynote address this year. Francis and his wife, Susan, operate Radiance Dairy, an 80-cow certified organic farm in Fairfield, Iowa where they produce milk, cream, yogurt, and cheese that is marketed through local stores and restaurants. Francis will share his approach of using nature’s ecology as a model to design and manage his farm to improve the health of his farm’s soils, forages, and livestock.

The conference will also feature a farmer panel, facilitated by Heather Darby, who will share their strategies of building their farm soils to optimize feed, livestock health and milk quality.

Cow and her calf on pasture at Radiance Dairy (photo courtesy of the Thicke family).

UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.
The conference will be held at Judd Hall on the Vermont Technical College campus in Randolph Center, Vermont. To get there, take I-89 to Exit 4. Turn east on Rte 66 and head up hill for 1 mile to intersection. At the top of the hill, continue straight to enter the Vermont Tech campus. Park in the main lot.

Questions?
Please contact Susan Brouillette at 802.524.6501 or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu with questions about the conference. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in the program, contact Susan by February 25, 2016 so we may assist you.
About the Speakers

MELISSA BAINBRIDGE is a PhD student in the UVM Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. Her research is looking at ways organic dairies can optimize bovine fatty acids.

HEATHER DARBY is an agronomist with UVM Extension where she leads the Northwest Crops & Soils Program. She conducts on-farm research on organic dairy cropping systems including grains and other annual forages, cover crops, and more.

JOHN FRANKLIN, with his parents David and Mary Ellen, run a diversified family farm in Guilford. In addition to raising certified organic cows for milk and meat, they also raise pigs, laying hens and produce maple syrup.

SABRINA GREENWOOD is an assistant professor in animal nutrition at UVM’s Dept of Animal and Veterinary Sciences where she conducts research and teaches livestock nutrition courses.

CALEB GOOSSEN is a PhD student in the UVM Department of Plant and Soil Science where he is researching management choices to optimize the fatty acid profile of forage crops.

JACK LAZOR and his family operate Butterworks Farm in Westfield. Jack’s keen attention to soil health of their 350 acres of pasture, hay and grain crops ensures high quality feed for their Jersey herd to produce their well-known yogurt and other products.

KEENA MULLEN is a postdoctoral scholar at the North Carolina State University Dept of Animal Sciences. Her research has included the evaluation of herbal remedies as mastitis treatments. Help Keena further her research by completing her survey: http://go.uvm.edu/hldya

FRANCIS THICKE and his wife, Susan, operate Radiance Dairy, an 80-cow certified organic farm in Fairfield, Iowa. The Thicke’s produce milk, cream, yogurt, and cheese marketed through local stores and restaurants. Francis also holds a PhD in agronomy and soil fertility, and has been a long-time advocate for sustainable agriculture. He is currently serving as an environmentalist and organic farmer on the USDA National Organic Standards Board.

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Conference Organizers

Planning Team: Susan Brouillette, Heather Darby, Sarah Flack, Sam Fuller, Ashley Green, and Debra Heleba

United States Department of Agriculture sponsors include:
• National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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2016 VERMONT ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name/s__________________________________

Farm/Org_________________________________

Address__________________________________

Town/St/Zip_______________________________

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REGISTRATION FEE
(includes materials and lunch)

$25 per person x _____(# attending) = _______

Total enclosed = _______

Please make check payable to: University of Vermont.

ABOUT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Please plan to register in advance for the conference. To guarantee a lunch at the conference, we need you to register by no later than March 3, 2016.

The fee is $25 per person and includes conference materials and lunch.

HOW TO REGISTER
You may register for the conference either online or by mail.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
WWW.REGONLINE.COM/ORGANICDAIRY

REGISTER BY MAIL:
Please complete the registration form and send with a check, made payable to “University of Vermont” to:

UVM Extension
ATTN: Organic Dairy Conference
278 South Main Street, Suite 2
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