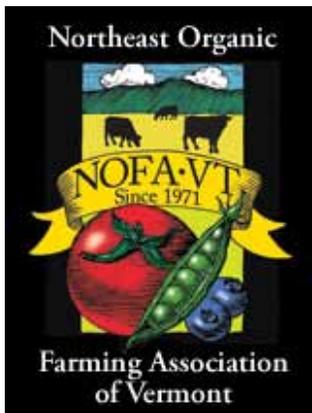




# Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference

Thursday, March 9, 2017  
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 are pleased to invite you to the 7th Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference!

This year, the keynote address will be delivered by Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and will focus on nutritional strategies to optimize herd health and production. Rick has worked with the organic dairy farming community in Maine and throughout the Northeast for more than fifteen years. We are thrilled that he will share his experience on animal nutrition with us! A farmer panel will join Rick to share their on-the-farm livestock nutrition strategies.

We are also bringing John Porter, emeritus dairy specialist at University of New Hampshire to the conference.

John has years of experience working with dairy farmers on facility and parlor designs. He'll share some creative and low-cost options to consider that may help farmers meet both the USDA National Organic Program's (NOP) outdoor access requirements and Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) under Vermont's new water quality law. John will be joined by NOFA Vermont's Stephanie Walsh and a panel of farmers who will share the farm facility changes they've made to meet these requirements.

The day will also include the latest updates on organic dairy research projects, and information on farm succession programs to ensure a healthy start to our next generation of organic dairy farmers.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Conference keynote to be delivered by Rick Kersbergen.



# Conference Agenda

## 9:00 AM -- CHECK-IN / ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Enjoy refreshments provided by our sponsors as you visit with exhibitors and fellow participants.

## 9:45 AM -- WELCOME

## 10:00 AM -- DAIRY GRAZING APPRENTICESHIP

Rick Kersbergen will describe this program, an accredited National Apprenticeship that combines on-farm employment and mentorship to train the next generation of graziers.

## 10:15 AM -- RESEARCH UPDATES

Heather Darby, Sarah Flack, and Caleb Goossen will share updates on organic dairy research projects including those focused on grass milk, annual forages, pasture fertility, and supplemental feeding strategies.

## 11:00 AM -- KEYNOTE: NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE HERD HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE

Rick Kersbergen will address nutritional strategies to consider for optimal herd health and performance. He'll discuss ways to troubleshoot nutrition challenges on the farm and provide practical solutions to help ensure your cows are getting the nutrition they need for good health.

## 12:00 PM -- LUNCH AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

We'll share farm succession info for lunch discussion.

1:00 PM -- CONFERENCE SPONSOR INTRODUCTIONS  
We'll hear from our Gold & Silver Level sponsors.

## 1:15 PM -- FARMER PANEL: NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES ON THE FARM

As a follow-up to Rick Kersbergen's keynote address, we will hear from organic dairy farmers Brent Beidler and Earl Fournier who will share their livestock nutrition approaches, who and what has helped, and advice for other farmers thinking about similar approaches.

## 2:00 PM -- VERMONT ORGANIC DAIRY JEOPARDY!

This interactive activity will answer questions about the ins and outs of our organic dairy farming community.

## 2:30 PM -- FARM-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS TO OUTDOOR ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Stephanie Walsh will start the session with an overview of the USDA National Organic Program's outdoor access (OA) requirements. John Porter will provide some creative facility options that may help better meet the requirement. Organic dairy farmers Geordie Lynd and Henry Pearl will talk about changes they have made to their farms to meet both the OA requirement and RAPS.

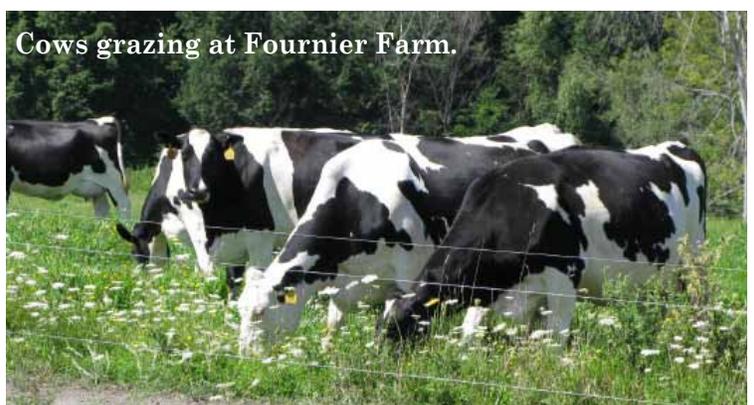
## 3:50 PM -- WRAP UP & EVALUATION

## 4:00 PM -- ADJOURN

Register now at: [www.regonline.com/organicdairy](http://www.regonline.com/organicdairy)

## Conference Location

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](mailto:susan.brouillette@uvm.edu) with questions about the conference. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in the program, contact Susan by February 23, 2017 so we may assist you.

## About Our Speakers



**BRENT BEIDLER** and his wife, Regina, have been operating their 145 acre farm in Randolph Center since 1998; it has been certified organic since 2000. Their 35-cow milking herd has been fed an all forage diet for about 12 years.



**HEATHER DARBY** is an agronomy and soil specialist with UVM Extension where she conducts outreach and on-farm research on organic dairy cropping systems including grains, annual forages, cover crops, and soil fertility.



**SARAH FLACK** is a consultant specializing in providing practical grazing and organic farm management education to farmers, organizations, institutions and individuals.



**EARL FOURNIER** and his family operate Fournier Farms in West Swanton. They transitioned the 200-acre farm to organic in 2003 and now milk 85 head.



**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.



**GEORDIE LYND** and his wife, Emery, operate their 65-head organic dairy farm in Walden. They purchased the 290-acre farm in 2010 and have since made improvements to both the pastures and infrastructure.



**HENRY PEARL** and his wife, Allison, operate Hill View Farms in Danville. They started their organic dairy in 2011 and now milk 50 registered Jerseys. In 2015, they built a new barn to facilitate their groups of youngstock and dry cows.



**JOHN PORTER** is a dairy specialist emeritus with University of New Hampshire Extension. He operates his own consulting company, Farm Planning Services, LLC, working with livestock farms on low-cost facility designs.



**RICK KERSBERGEN** is a sustainable dairy and forage systems specialist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, where he conducts research and extension programs for dairy and livestock farmers, including those focused on annual forages, cover crops, organic grains, and more.



**STEPHANIE WALSH** is a Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) certification specialist at NOFA Vermont where she works with dairy, livestock, and field crop operations.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors!

### Gold (\$2,500)



### Silver (\$1,000)



### Bronze (\$500)



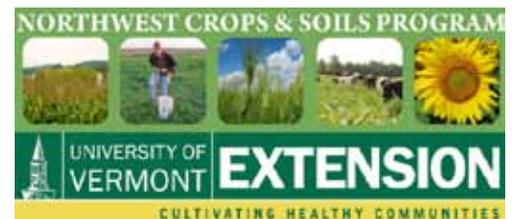
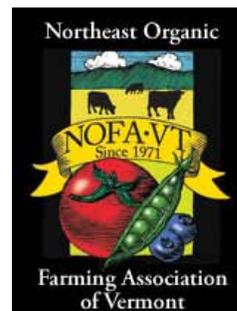
USDA sponsors include:

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northeast SARE
- Risk Management Agency



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Conference Organizers



Conference Planning Team: Susan Brouillette, Heather Darby, Sarah Flack, Debra Heleba, Jen Miller, and Stephanie Walsh

NW Crops and Soils Program  
278 South Main Street, Suite 2  
St Albans, Vermont 05478



## Registration Information

2017 VERMONT ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Org \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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 1, 2017.

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](http://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  
St. Albans, VT 05478