Wood Pellet Furnace and Boiler for Heating Greenhouses
Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 3-6 p.m.
River Berry Farm, Fairfax

David Marchant and Jane Sorenson own River Berry Farm, a highly diversified vegetable, strawberry and ornamental operation. In addition to about 35 acres of crops they have 7 greenhouses for production of bedding plants, field transplants and greenhouse tomatoes. They have been exploring wood pellet systems for reducing their reliance on propane to heat the greenhouses. In 2008, an LDJ Amaizing Heat corn furnace was installed in a 3,000 sq ft greenhouse; it has been run on wood pellets for several years.

This year they purchased a Maxim outdoor wood pellet boiler with about twice the Btu output, to heat 2 greenhouses totaling 4,000 sq. ft. They will describe their greenhouse production systems in general and discuss the performance of both heating units, as well as the management considerations and economics of heating with pellets. The farm also features a heat recovery system that captures waste heat from the walk-in-cooler compressor to provide hot water on the farm, and a low-cost hot-water bench-heating system to reduce fuel demand in the transplant greenhouse.

Directions. From the west: Follow Rt. 104 out of Fairfax Center. The Lamoille River parallels Rt. 104 on your left. Just after the dam turn left and cross the bridge. (It is a one lane bridge so, if there is someone coming towards you, wait until the bridge is clear to pass over.) Turn right on Goose Pond Rd. River Berry Farm is on the right about ¼ of a mile from the bridge. From the east: Follow Rt. 104 out of Cambridge. The Lamoille River parallels Rte. 104 on your right. Just after the dam turn right and cross the bridge. (It is a one lane bridge so, if there is someone coming towards you, wait until the bridge is clear to pass over.) Turn right on Goose Pond Rd. River Berry Farm is on the right about ¼ of a mile from the bridge. The physical address is 191 Goose Pond Rd., Fairfax if you want to get map directions.

Sponsored by: University of Vermont Extension, the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association and the USDA Risk Management Agency which provides sound risk management solutions for farmers, see: www.rma.usda.gov. Questions? Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension 802-257-7967 x303