I 8th Annual VT Grazing & Livestock Conference

Farm Management Decisions:
More Than the Sum(s) of Their Parts

January 17 & 18, 2014
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT

Conference cohosted by the VT Grass Farmers Association and the VT Beef Producers Association and coordinated by the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Pasture Program
Welcome to the 18th Annual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference

On behalf of the Vermont Grass Farmers and Vermont Beef Producers Associations, we would like to invite you to the 18th annual conference celebrating new ideas, old friends, and the idea that many small decisions will lead up to a big finish.

It’s true that sometimes a major decision will be the turning point; that decision to farm full time, a transition to organic, a new enterprise. But odds are, success or failure on a farm will come in the day-to-day...how forage is managed, what is done to feed the soil, how time is saved.

We have a wide variety of workshops planned for livestock farmers of all experience levels, sizes and types. Back again is one-on-one business planning with the New Farmer Network. Much younger farmers (age 6-12) will have the opportunity to learn new skills as well, and the food itself is a celebration of what you and your neighbors produce. Of particular excitement this year are the live cattle and swine demos, and the rainfall simulator.

Thank you always for joining us from around the Northeast.

Come along, enjoy yourselves...and stay for both days!

---2014 Conference Committee
Jenn Colby, Conference Coordinator
Sid Bosworth
Ben Brown
Kimberly Hagen
Bay Hammond
Dan Hudson
Nelson Lamson
Eric Noel
Bekah Perry
Phil Wagner
The 18th Annual VT Grazing & Livestock Conference will take place at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT. The resort offers many additional activities and amenities (many are free!) for conference attendees and their families, including an indoor pool & jacuzzi, cross country skiing and ice skating/broomball just outside the Conference doors. Lake Morey is home to the longest skating trail in the United States—a 4.5 mile circuit around the entire lake. The resort is also 15 minutes from the Montshire Museum of Science (www.montshire.net).

Guest rooms are available at the conference rate of $83/night plus tax, for either double or single occupancy. Make your reservations by calling (800) 423-1211.

Why should farmers stay overnight at Lake Morey during the conference? Vacations promote creativity, stave off burnout, keep us healthy. Vacations promote overall wellbeing, strengthen family & social bonds, and help us do a better job back at work. Best of all, they relieve stress.

Do yourself, your family and your farm a favor. Take a vacation.

Visit www.lakemoreyresort.com for more details

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<th>Conference Facilities</th>
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| From Boston and points south: Take I-93 North to I-89 North (in Concord, NH) to I-91 North (in White River Jct, VT.). Take Exit 15. Turn left off exit ramp. **Take first right (granite Lake Morey Resort sign on corner). Follow the golf course (on left) and take your first left onto Clubhouse Rd. Resort is on the right. |
| From Burlington: Take I-89 South to Exit 7 (Berlin/Barre). Take Route 302 East through Barre to Orange. Take Route 25 South to Bradford. Take I-91 South to Exit 15, turn right off the exit ramp and follow directions from ** above. |
| From Albany: Take I-87 North to Troy. Take Route 7 East to Route 9 East in Vermont. Take I-91 North in Brattleboro, Vermont. Take Exit 15, follow directions from ** above. |

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<td>** Friday, January 17 **</td>
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<td>** Two Pre-conference Workshop Intensives ** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>** Soil Health: From Basics to Practice ** with Steve Woodruff, Ray Covino, Abe Collins, and Eric Noel</td>
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<| Building a Productive, Profitable, and Pleasurable Livestock Operation with Dr. Ben Bartlett |
| ** Tradeshow Exhibitions Open ** 4 to 6 p.m. |
| ** Pre-dinner mingling with charcuterie snacks ** 6 to 7 p.m. |

| ** Saturday, January 18 ** |
| ** 18th Annual VT Grazing & Livestock Conference ** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| ** Multiple workshop tracks for different interests; 21 workshops in all ** |
| ** Tradeshow featuring over 25 companies, organizations, and service providers ** |
| Kids’ Conference for ages 6 to 12 |
| ** Lunch and refreshments with local meat, cheeses and vegetables ** |
| Discussion groups & special lunch topics |
| Ice cream social to end the day and celebrate |
Friday Workshop Intensives

A full-day or mix-and-match sessions running approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Soil Health: From Basics to Practice**

with Steve Woodruff, Ray Covino, Abe Collins, and Eric Noel

*Did you know that farmers can save the world? How does soil health lead to forage and livestock productivity? How do chemical, biological, and physical aspects of soil maximize your bottom line AND water quality?*

Join a lineup of regional and national speakers to learn more about how to better understand critical needs for soil to function best. The morning will focus on the basic building blocks of soil health, followed by a rainfall simulation comparing water movement through soils under different management strategies. In the afternoon session, we’ll dig more deeply into strategies to address soil limitations using examples from around the country, Vermont, and the Northeast.

**Building a Productive, Profitable, and Pleasurable Livestock Operation**

with Dr. Ben Bartlett, Log Cabin Livestock

*Does moving your livestock cause frustration and stress? Do you get inspired to make changes on your farm and struggle to make it happen? Do you want to keep the three Ps in your farm plan?*

This session is devoted to providing a combination of practice and planning for livestock farmers at varying levels of production and business experience. The morning will focus on low-stress livestock handling making the most of Dr. Ben’s veterinary and farming background. After a classroom portion, we’ll move outside for a live animal sorting and chute demo. In the afternoon, we’ll focus on farm planning—economics, as well as quality of life and the “nuts and bolts” of production. He will help you take a goal to work on, develop a plan to achieve it, and look at the resources you have available to get there.

What is a “mix-or-match” day-long session?

While we ask you to register for one workshop to help us with our planning, the two Friday workshops are designed to complement each other in content and break times. Feel like you understand basic soil health and want to learn more about low-stress livestock handling? Are you comfortable that your business plan meets your goals, but really want to delve deeply into soil health practices?

Mix or match educational sessions to meet your needs, and let us know how it works.

The RMA provides risk management and financial tools to Vermont’s farmers with information through education and outreach programs.

More information is available at: www.rma.usda.gov
Vermont Beef Producers Association

Building beef markets
Conducting feeder cattle sales
Production and stewardship education
Helping market your cattle

Let’s make a positive impact on the cattle industry in Vermont by working together. Join today.

www.vermontbeefproducers.org
Friday & Saturday Featured Speakers

Ben & Denise Bartlett, Log Cabin Livestock
Ben & Denise Bartlett have been raising sheep in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for 35 years. During that time they have lambed close to 10,000 ewes, raised over 18,000 lambs, raised nearly 3500 head of Holstein stocker cattle, been through close to 10 dogs, 4 pick-ups, raised 3 children and celebrated the arrival of 9 grandchildren. They have traveled to over 15 foreign countries in pursuit of agricultural and cultural knowledge that can apply to farmers no matter where they live. They have each retired from their full time jobs of Michigan State University livestock Extension educator for the Upper Peninsula and librarian/middle-school English teacher for the local school district—yet they remain advocates for the sheep industry in the Mid-West. Ben received the Camptender Award from the American Sheep Industry Association in 2009 and Denise currently is on the board of the Michigan Sheep Breeders’ Association. They are firm believers in creating a system that works for you, keeping things simple and harvesting the free solar energy that makes grass grow.

Steve Woodruff,
USDA-NRCS East National Technology Service Center
Steve was raised on a small row crop and beef cattle farm in northwest North Carolina. After attending North Carolina State University and receiving a BS in Agronomy in 1983, he began a career with USDA’s Soil Conservation Service and then later, following the name change, the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has worked as a soil conservationist, district conservationist and state agronomist for North Carolina. Currently he is an agronomist at NRCS’s East National Technology Service Center located in Greensboro NC. He assists States with their cropland agronomy and grazing concerns. He is also providing training and information as part of the national NRCS Soil Health Team.

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Newmont Farm, Bradford, VT

www.efficiencyvermont.com/agriculture
New Farmer Coaching
(for farms in business less than 10 years)
Are you a new or aspiring farmer looking for land, capital, skill development, or business planning advice? Or, have you been farming for a few years and are now considering diversifying, expanding or reaching new markets? Attend a one-on-one coaching session with a Vermont New Farmer Project consultant to identify steps you can take to meet your priorities. New farmers may also request a feedback session on their draft written business plans. Space is limited; please visit http://tinyurl.com/VTGrazingCoach to sign up.

The VT New Farmer Project is a collaboration between UVM Extension, NOFA-VT, the Intervale Center, Vital Communities, RAFFL, & AALV, with funding from the USDA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program.

Questions about the conference?
Visit www.uvm.edu/pasture or call (802) 656-5459

Kids’ Conference
A full day kids’ conference will take place on site at Lake Morey targeted for kids ages 6-12. Indoor and outdoor activities may include arts and crafts, group challenges, storytelling around a campfire, shelter building, sledding, cross country skiing, or ice skating on Lake Morey. Children should be ready to be inside and out plus bring a change of clothes in case things get wet.

Led by VT Envirothon Coordinator Carrie Riker, plenty of great activities will be included!

The kids’ conference is FREE, but we do ask that you register your kids in advance to help us plan for staffing and materials needs.

Working for Vermont beef, dairy and veal producers.

Vermont Beef Industry Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 1004
Burlington, Vermont 05402-1004
Telephone 802-578-3014

A farmer owned beef co-op specializing in marketing and sales to NY Metro area groceries, butchers and restaurants.

WWW.ADKGRAZERS.COM
518-638-8263
Low Stress Stock Handling
This program will emphasize meeting society’s expectations, increasing safety and lowering stress for both people and stock, and equally important, increasing profitability. You will learn the Why – low stress handling is important and how low stress handling works, and How - to become a low stress stock handler. From goats in the Virgin Islands to musk ox in Alaska, and lots of dairy, beef cattle and sheep in between, low stress handling works.

Soil Health Basics
What does “soil health” mean and what can we do to support the soil food web? What are the spheres influencing the soil food web? How can I tell if my soil is healthy? Join NRCS Agronomist Steve Woodruff for a fresh take on soil, including planning principles to keep in mind. Soil root health, nutrient cycling, and biological diversity will be covered.

Double Duty: Cover Crops as Forage Crops
The Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team (UVM Extension) will share their experiences and results from their on-farm demonstration and research projects. This presentation will focus on the use of cover crop mixtures and summer annuals as forage crops and how they might fit into a grazing system to provide grazing forage during the early spring, summer slump and fall. The team has been working with small grains, legumes, brassicas, and warm season summer annuals in no-till and tilled situations and have lots of information to share. They will also share how their no-till grain drills have been used in pasture situations and what farmers are finding works (and doesn’t).

To Debt or Not to Debt: Working Together to Decide What Fits
For many farmers, the decision to take on debt isn’t easy. Even when the decision is made to secure debt, lenders may be hesitant to approve the whole request amount, and the farmers may not be including all of the variables in a repayment scenario. This session will include some background on what lenders look for, but most of the time will be dedicated to case studies and specific examples of developing the right loans, in the right amount, at the right time for both farmers and lenders. Presented by VACC loan officer Patty Duffy, Intervale Foundation Business Specialist Sam Smith, and UVM Land Access Coordinator Ben Waterman, with partnering farmers Jonathan LeBlanc and Lindsay Harris.

Grazing Fundamentals
Grazing consultant and diversified farmer Lisa McCrory will review the principles of grazing management including whole farm goal setting, rest & recovery, plant diversity & regrowth, feed quality, manure management, multi-species grazing, troubleshooting, and much more.

A Critical Examination of Northern-tier Grass-Fed/Finished Beef Production Systems
Many northern-tier grass-fed beef producers feed stored feed to their livestock for 200+ days per year and often need to take steers through two winters before they are ready for the plate. The considerable total cost of production associated with this system raises questions about alternative approaches. Are there really approaches that are THAT different?? This interactive discussion will critically examine modern grass-fed beef production systems in northern areas and discuss the possibility of collaborating with farmers in the near-South to increase the economic and environmental sustainability of grass-fed beef production systems.

Designing and Delivering On-Farm Research
As you go about the daily business of farming, what questions would you like to answer? And if you think you know how you’d go about testing your ideas, how can you get it funded? UVM Extension Agronomist Sid Bosworth and NE SARE Farmer Grant Coordinator Carol Delaney will help guide you toward measurable and fundable projects. Sid will highlight a checklist of research design pieces and setting up practical measurements that will get you the information you need. Carol will describe what she’s seen from the “funded project” side and how to go about making sure work hasn’t been funded somewhere else. The session will conclude with a farmer who’s conducted on-farm research talking about their project and experiences. Depending on the number of attendees, we may break into small groups to help you work through ideas.
From Growing to Showing: How to Make Your Swine Shine!
The Blue Ribbon 4-H Club will lead a discussion on what each of them go through to select, prepare and grow their pigs for showing and market. They'll talk about swine husbandry and how to keep your pig in good health. With a demonstration, including live show pigs, they will teach people how to handle their pigs before and during a show. With real life stories and personal experience the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club will give the information to understand what it takes to make your swine shine whether in a breeding program, a show or on a plate!

Grazing and Soil Health
Soil Health is one of the four pillars of animal agriculture: Grazing animals, plants, human management, and soil health. The cropping community is waking up to cover crops, organic matter, no or reduced tillage but what about pasture-based farmers? Are our grazing practices building or destroying the land? This session will begin to uncover the relationship between grazing, soil life, and how our management can make measureable differences. NRCS Agronomist Steve Woodruff and Dr. Ben Bartlett will talk about specific aspects of building the soil food web through grazing and how to measure changes in the soil as a result.

Grass-Based Farm Demonstrations: Year 1
Well-managed rotational grazing farms have been shown to improve soil and water quality benefits, but what practices in Vermont help pastures be at their best? UVM Extension and Center for Sustainable Agriculture partners have been working with three farms (beef, sheep, and dairy) to monitor and demonstrate the impacts of a range of production and management practices on soil quality, forage production, energy use, biological activity, and economics. The first year of this three-year project has just been completed, with interesting data and observations to share.

Deciding Whether to Farm Full Time: A Farm Viability Scenario
Are you feeling the squeeze of a growing farm business? Are you ready to make the leap to farming full time? A team of farm viability and grazing assistance providers worked together with farmers Michelle and Roland Ayer over the course of a year to develop various options comparing sheep numbers with labor, expenses, and land capacity. Ultimately, this team approach helped Michelle and Roland make their decision. Co-presented with Mark Cannella of UVM Extension, Sam Smith of Intervale Foundation, and Kimberly Hagen of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Pasture Program.

Troubleshooting Fence From Design to Containment
Choosing the right fence moves you toward a better farm system, but what happens if the fence isn’t meeting your needs? Join David Kennard of Wellscroft Farm (and Wellscroft Fence Systems) to learn about designing systems that work for you and help troubleshoot many of the top reasons why your fence might not be living up to your expectations.

Higher-Quality Haylage and Baleage Means More Money in Your Pocket
Feed costs often exceed 25-30% of a dairy or beef farm’s expenses. Timing, handling methods, and storage choices of harvested feeds for cattle can translate quickly into thousands of dollars. Learn how to pack the greatest punch into your forage with this session co-presented by UVM Agronomist Sid Bosworth and feed consultant Mike Thresher. Sid will focus on the plant and harvest side of the equation. Mike will cover how stored feeds of varying quality will affect the nutrition and production of your animals, and how to address any shortcomings in your feed program. This session will include hands on quality evaluation and information useful for any farm looking to maximize production.

On-Farm Research Results From Around the Region
A round up of farmer-led research on beef, dairy and other livestock farms from around the region. With Carol Soule of Miles Smith Farm, and additional farmers to be confirmed.
More Sheep, Less Work: What’s the Right Size?
Are you working for your sheep or do your sheep work for you? A new way to look at your sheep operation. Don’t try to do everything right! Instead, work on your Weak Link. This program will focus on key management factors to consider as you “right-size” your sheep flock. Denise and Ben Bartlett have lambed close to 10,000 ewes and raised over 18,000 lambs in their 35-year career and have many tips to share.

Soil and Water Movement Through a Farm: Observations and Meaning
Water movement through a farm can be greatly impacted by ecological and soil conditions, much of which can be observed easily. What do the things you observe mean for the health of your farm ecosystem? Kimberly Hagen and Joshua Faulkner of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture will outline a number of examples from farms around the state and lead a discussion about what’s going on above and below the soil surface.

Using New Soil Knowledge to Test and Demonstrate Ideas
By attending to the needs of plants and soil organisms, can we achieve high animal performance, quality biomass production and soil health improvement? We’ll describe a handful of mental checklists we’re thinking through at Health Hero Farm for addressing limiting physical, chemical and biological conditions to photosynthesis and humification. We’ll review some of basics of the physiology and needs of forage plants and soil organisms and how Eric is tailoring his management to meet those needs. We’ll also describe why and how we’ve been monitoring soil, forage, water and livestock performance so far, and we’ll plan to in the future. With Abe Collins of Collins Grazing and Eric Noel of Health Hero Farm.

From Farmers to Processors: Transition Lessons Learned
Two new slaughter and processing facilities recently completed their first busy fall season after designing and getting facilities legally inspected. Come hear about their adventures in processing, after years of farming. The shoe’s on the other foot! Presented by Bruce Hennessey and Beth Whiting of Maple Wind Farm in Vermont and Kristi and Russ Atherton of The Local Butcher in New Hampshire.

Balancing Ruminant Nutrition in a Pasture-based System
Do you hear the terms “protein” and “energy” in a pasture system and wonder what they mean? Have you assumed that animals on pasture are automatically getting the best nutrition to meet your farm production and bottom line goals? Mike Thresher of Morrison’s Custom Feeds works with farmers within a wide range of production systems to help balance making the most of pasture with purchased and harvested feed. While focused mainly on ruminant nutrition within this session, Mike also consults on poultry and swine farms, and may answer some additional non-ruminant questions if time allows.

Feeding Into December: Twenty Years of Season Extension
Do you know that it’s possible to keep grazing into December without supplemental feed? David Kennard of Wellscroft Farm has been raising pastured sheep into early winter for over twenty years, using strategic placement and portable fencing. David will share his experience and documented feed numbers over time.

Fertilizer from Urine: Clean Rivers. Sustainable Farms
For two years, the Rich Earth Institute in Brattleboro, VT has been working at the intersection of sanitation and agriculture to provide solutions to problems in each sector. With the rising cost of fertilizer, farmers and farming communities can benefit from the use of human urine as a local, inexpensive and abundant natural source of nitrogen and phosphorus for their fields. Removing urine from the waste water stream also reduces pollution caused by these nutrients being discharged into rivers and groundwaters from our current sewage and septic practices. The project includes collection of urine (3,000 gallons in 2013), transport, storage, treatment and application to hay. USDA funded studies have established urine’s effectiveness as a replacement for synthetic fertilizer. The scientific principals of urine nutrient reclamation and field trial results will be shared.
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<td><strong>To Debt or Working Decisions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Patty I, Sam Smith, In&lt;br&gt;Ben Water, Jonathan LeBlanc&lt;br&gt;Lindsay Harris,</td>
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<td><strong>From Processors to Processor Lessons</strong>&lt;br&gt;Beth Whiting&lt;br&gt;Maple</td>
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- Show and Discussions

- 1:30 - 2:45 pm

- Troubleshooting Fence From Design to Containment
  - David Kennard, Wellscroft Fence Systems

- Higher-Quality Haylage and Baleage Means More Money in Your Pocket
  - Mike Thresher, Morrison’s Custom Feeds
  - Sid Bosworth, UVM Extension

- On-Farm Research Results from Around the Region
  - Carol Soule, Miles Smith Farm

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<td>Kim Nace, Rich Earth Institute</td>
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<td>Jay Bailey, Fair Winds Farm</td>
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- Social and Closing Remarks
The University of Vermont
Center for Sustainable Agriculture

The Center cultivates understanding, innovative practices and policies to advance sustainable food and farming in VT and beyond.

Established in 1994, the Center brings a food systems focus to Vermont agriculture, conducting research, supporting new projects and bringing a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to the opportunities and challenges facing Vermont farmers and agriculture-related businesses.

Current Programs:
- Pasture
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- Land Access
- New American Farmers
- Local Food Research
- Farming & Climate Change

UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
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Vermont Grass Farmers Association

A group of farmers and neighbors growing the vitality of grass-based farming in Vermont

VGFA seeks to create vital soils, healthy eaters and strong communities through sustainable, regenerative livestock agriculture.

VGFA
P.O. Box 142
Randolph Center, VT 05061
www.uvm.edu/pasture
## Major Conference Sponsors

### Production Booster ($2,500)

- **Central New York RC&D and NESARE Partners Holistic Planned Grazing Project**

### Livestock Lifters ($1,250)

- USDA Risk Management Agency
- Organic Valley - Family of Farms
- VAC - Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation
- Efficiency Vermont
- Wellscroft Fence Systems LLC

### Soil Builders ($550)

- Vermont Agency of Agriculture
- Vermont Beef Industry Council
- Green Mountain Spring-Rock Farm
- UVM Climate Change and Agricultural Resilience Project
- Westminster Meats
- Yankee Farm Credit

### Sponsors ($275)

- City Market
- Dirigo Quality Meats
- Pyle Agency
- Shelburne Farms
- Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission

### Supporters (Up to $274)

- Rural Vermont
Special Thanks

This conference would not be possible without the support of two very important organizations. We continually appreciate all that they do to support sustainable, successful farming in Vermont and the Northeast.

The University of Vermont provides support to the conference in many ways, including University assistance for copying, deaf translation, bulk discounts, office space and much more. The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and the UVM Extension Service in particular have provided high quality and resourceful speakers who work hard every day to ensure that farmers and food systems in VT receive the best assistance possible. This year the conference features UVM speakers from Plant & Soil Science as well as the Extension's Agronomy, Plant and Soil Science, and Center for Sustainable Agriculture units. Thank you very much to UVM for your commitment to Vermont’s agricultural base.

For over seventeen years, VT’s USDA-NRCS has provided assistance to the VT Pasture Network in the form of staff support at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Without this support, it would be very difficult to maintain the affordable conference rates, reduced guest attendance cost, free kids’ conference or the great number of workshop speakers we are able to secure. We are also particularly appreciative of funding for a new Grazing Specialist position to help farmers plan and implement grazing. In this era of budget challenges and hard decisions, VT NRCS deserves special thanks for investing in Vermont’s environmental and economic future through its decisions to provide staffing support for this conference, and other farmer education opportunities.

Major Food Providers & Sponsors

We can’t forget to thank the food donors and farms who generously support the conference meals, snacks and ice cream social. Particular thanks go out to:

- Green Mountain Coffee
- Horizon Organic
- Organic Valley
- Vermont Smoke & Cure

- O Bread Bakery
- Green Mountain Girls Farm
- Jasper Hill
- Lakeway Farm

UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work.

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UVM Extension proudly supports the Center as a forward-looking model for community-university partnerships.

The USDA Risk Management Agency provides risk management and financial tools to Vermont’s farmers with information through education and outreach programs.

More information is available at: www.rma.usda.gov
Online conference registration via credit card, electronic checks and PayPal now available at www.uvm.edu/pasture
Jonathan Rutter of Bridport, VT was a lifelong dairy farmer and a unique spirit. Through Journey’s Hope farm, Jon and his wife Beverly expressed their passions, vision and community spirit which included a tradition of sharing and encouraging learning at all levels. One of the founding members of the Vermont Grass Farmers Association in 1996, Jon long credited his financial success and quality of life to the use of management-intensive grazing his 300+ cows. Jon was always generous with his time to help young and beginning farmers establish themselves, and his land for furthering grass-based research projects. He shared his successes and failures openly and honestly with a wink and a smile. In Jon’s eyes, the world was a green and growing place full of wonder, vitality and promise.

Jon’s passing in March 2010 stirred a variety of emotions: sadness at the loss of one of Vermont’s treasures, frustration that the best of us are sometimes taken too soon, and a powerful motivation to create a long-lasting memorial in Jon’s name focused on a sustainable future for Vermont’s livestock farmers through grass-based farming.

The Vermont Grass Farmers Association (VGFA) is honored to have been asked to develop, guide, grow and administer this fund in Jon’s memory. To initiate an endowment, VGFA has voted to direct $7,000 in savings be held for the fund. We are currently seeking additional contributions to the endowment, with the intention that interest earned from the fund will be used to continue the mentoring and technical assistance Jon felt so critical to the success of beginning and experienced grass farmers. Donations can be made directly to the VGFA at P.O. Box 142 Randolph Center, VT 05061 or through the conference registration form found at the back of this conference program.

Goals of the Fund:
- Increase the knowledge base of grazing farmers and encourage innovation on grazing farms
- Encourage the expansion of new and beginning grass-based livestock farmers
- Create a longer-term funding source to promote grass-based livestock farming into the future

Mentorship and Technical Assistance Funding
The Jonathan Rutter Memorial Fund provides mentorship and technical assistance grants to enable farmers at all levels to continue learning, innovating and advancing their goals for sustainable, grass-based livestock farming. Funding is available for one-on-one farmer assistance, either in the form of a technical assistance contractor or a farmer mentor.

In 2014, our goal will be to continue to establish the base support for this fund and develop the structure for the future program.

Thank you for joining with us to support the establishment of this enduring gift!

Please note that applications for the annual Jamie Cherington Memorial Mini Grants will also be available at the conference, with a deadline of March 15.
NE-SARE Holistic Planned Grazing Project
Training technical assistance providers
Farmer goal-based assistance
Reading the biological landscape
Planned grazing for resilient farming

Charts and resources available at
http://cnyrcd.org/planned-grazing-participants/
www.uvm.edu/pasture
We’re always looking for good farmers.

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- Transition Assistance
- Feed & Forage Sourcing

Contact our Farmer Hotline!
(888) 809-9297 • www.farmers.coop
The VT Grazing & Livestock Conference is priced to encourage multiple attendees from each farm, including kids who attend for free under age 13. We encourage you to make the most of your attendance by becoming a member of one or more of the hosting organizations, and bringing guests with you at a discounted rate as your first member benefit.

Name

________________________________________

Member Guests:

________________________________________

Kids’ Conference Attendees (with ages):

________________________________________

Farm/Org

________________________________________

Mailing Address

________________________________________

Phone & Email

________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: VT Grass Farmers Association and mail along with this registration form to: VT Grazing Conference c/o VGFA P.O. Box 142 Randolph Center, VT 05061

Prefer to pay by credit card? Instructions at www.uvm.edu/pasture Have any questions about registration? Call (802) 656-5459.

Door prizes will be raffled for attendees pre-registered by January 10. Prizes donated so far include books, clothing, fence testers, boot scrushers, fertilizer and more. Take the Plunge! Register Today! Win a Prize!
Annual Membership
$40 (one organization) Circle Membership Choice

VGFA and/or VBPA

$70 VBPA Sponsor level membership

Conference Non-Member Registration _____ attendees X $70 __________

Conference Member** Registration $50 __________

**2014 members of VT Grass Farmers Association, or VT Beef Producers Association

Member Guests

_____ attendees 13 or older X $45 __________

Kids’ Conference attendees

_____ attendees age 6 to 12 free

Friday Workshop: Soil Health: From Basics to Practice

_____ attendees X $50 __________

Attendee names: _____________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Friday Workshop: Building a Productive, Profitable, and Pleasurable Livestock Operation

_____ attendees X $50 __________

Attendee names: _____________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Donation to the Jon Rutter Memorial Fund __________

$5 Early reg discount if postmarked by January 3 (__________)

Total Enclosed __________

Prefer to pay online? Instructions at www.uvm.edu/pasture!
To learn more, visit www.veda.org, or speak with one of VACC’s experienced farm lenders by calling toll-free 1-866-828-FARM (3276).

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