Celebrating Twenty Years of Farming Vitality

January 15 & 16, 2016
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 20th Annual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference

Looking back over the past twenty years, there is a lot to celebrate about pasture-based livestock production in Vermont and the Northeast. In twenty years, we’ve seen the number of Vermont farms with some percentage of permanent pasture increase from 36% to 60% and the total acreage of dedicated pasture land nearly double. Today, the number of farms in New England is the highest it’s been since 1964. Much of that growth has been in young, organic, and female farmers. There are over 200 certified organic dairy farms required to use pasture rotation as part of their certification, and an increasing number who are rewarded for good pasture management through grass-only payment programs. All around, “grass-based” is in demand.

I was not at the first conference, but I did attend the second one, and most since then. Over the past twenty years, we’ve grown and evolved. This is an amazing gathering of farmers young and experienced, people who value learning from one another and passing along what they have learned in turn. All share an abiding love of our livestock partners. About 25% of our conference attendees are new to grazing and sometimes even farming. It’s quite an honor to think that our conference is their introduction to livestock production. In evaluation comments, I often read about how welcome new farmers or pre-farmers feel in a culture you all have created. As you know, the average age of farmers has been increasing. That’s one of the reasons why it is so needed and so beneficial for new farmers to feel supported by this community. Farming is hard, but friends make it easier.

We come together to celebrate twenty years of vitality and look toward the future. Many of you have accumulated years of pasture management practice and experience, so we’ve invited Jim Gerrish, the man who [literally] wrote the book on Management-Intensive Grazing, to present a day-long advanced grazing intensive to help you move along your knowledge continuum. We have several Friday night activities planned for farmers and consumers to enjoy and connect over. Vermont’s own Sarah Flack, the original Pasture Program Coordinator, will share observations fresh from completing her own book about grass-based farming. With two full days of programming, a kids’ conference, tradeshow, over twenty workshops, and fabulous meals, we’re pretty sure you’ll find something to enjoy.

Whether new or old, raising livestock for twenty minutes or twenty years, there’s never been a better time to come join us. We hope you’ll stay for both days!

Jenn Colby
UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Pasture Program Coordinator and
Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference Coordinator
The 20th 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 $89/night plus tax, for either double or single occupancy. Make your reservations by calling (800) 423-1211 and mentioning the conference.

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

### Conference-at-a-Glance

**Friday, January 15**

**Pre-conference Workshops**

- **9 am to 4 pm**
  - *Advanced Grazing Topics*
  - with Jim Gerrish of American GrazingLands Services, LLC

- **1 pm to 2:30 pm**
  - *Is a Dropping Milk Price Making You Think About Organic Transition?*
  - with Sarah Flack, Ashley Green, and representatives from Stonyfield Farm, Horizon Organic and CROPP/Organic Valley

- **4 to 6 pm**
  - *Tradeshow Exhibitions Open* with refreshments

- **7 to 9 pm**
  - *Grazing Around the World* with Jim Gerrish
  - *Symphony of the Soil* documentary screening & discussion

**Saturday, January 16**

**20th Annual VT Grazing & Livestock Conference**

- **8 am to 5 pm**
  - Multiple workshop tracks for different interests; 21 workshops in all
  - Tradeshow featuring over 25 companies, organizations, and service providers
  - Keynote speech with Jim Gerrish
  - Kids’ Conference for ages 6 to 12
  - Lunch and refreshments with local meat, cheeses and vegetables
  - Live music, door prizes, and demonstrations
  - Ice cream social to end the day and celebrate
9 am to 4 pm   Advanced Grazing Topics
with Jim Gerrish of American GrazingLands Services, LLC

- *Are you a farmer who has been managing pasture for a few years?*
- *Do you want to farm for environmental benefits AND to make money?*
- *Are you ready to move your grazing knowledge to a new level?*

This day-long workshop is intended for pasture managers who have moved beyond the basics and are focused on refining and improving their systems. Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands consultant providing service to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across the US and internationally. He has 22 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty at the University of Missouri, and co-founded a multi-day grazing management program that has been duplicated in fifteen other states.

Some of the topics Jim will cover include getting the most out of your pastures, using stock density as a tool in your toolbox, finishing beef on perennial pastures (concurrent with the dairy session below), and the dollars and cents of whether grazing improvements will pay off.

1 pm to 2:30 pm   Is a Dropping Milk Price Making You Think About Organic Transition?
with Sarah Flack, Ashley Green and representatives from Stonyfield Farm, Horizon Organic, and CROPP Coorperative/Organic Valley

- *Are you considering a transition to organic now or possibly sometime in the future?*
- *Have you begun an organic transition and want to better understand your marketing options?*

This stand-alone session will cover some of the technical aspects of transition, such as the pasture rule, what the inspection and transition process is like, and provide suggestions for starting to plan if a transition is a few years away. Structured to be informal and tailored around the needs of the farmers in the room, pasture and business management consultant Sarah Flack and Vermont Organic Farmers Dairy & Livestock Certification Specialist will be joined by representatives from the major organic dairy companies around the region to outline their individual payment programs and requirements.

Please note: Registration for this workshop includes an invitation to stay for the Jim Gerrish presentation on investment in grazing improvements.
Vermont Beef Producers Association

Educating producers
Building cattle markets
Supporting VT’s beef industry
Listening to YOUR needs
Representing members statewide

www.vermontbeefproducers.org
**Friday & Saturday Featured Speakers**

**Jim Gerrish, American GrazingLands Services, LLC**

Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands consultant providing service to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across the US and internationally. He currently lives in the Pahsimeroi Valley in central Idaho and works with numerous ranchers across the US, Canada, and Mexico using both irrigated pastures and native rangeland as well as working in the high natural rainfall environments of the eastern US. He received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Illinois and MS in Crop Ecology from the University of Kentucky. He has written a regular monthly column in The Stockman Grass-Farmer magazine for over 15 years. He has authored two books on grazing and ranch management; *Management-intensive Grazing: The Grassroots of Grass Farming* was published in 2004 and *Kick the Hay Habit: A practical guide to year-around grazing* was published in 2010.

**Sarah Flack, Sarah Flack Consulting**

Sarah Flack is a consultant specializing in providing practical information on grass based and organic livestock production. She is the author of *Organic Dairy Production*, wrote the chapter on grazing management in *The Organic Dairy Handbook* and co-authored *Transitioning to Organic Dairy*, as well as many articles grass-based and organic farming systems. She is writing a new book on grass based livestock production which will be available from Chelsea Green Publishing in the spring of 2016. Sarah’s approach is to empower farmers to create their own individualized management systems for success. The planning and design process always include consideration of livestock wellbeing, plants, soils, water quality, farm labor, farm profitability and farm family goals.

Speakers for the Small Ruminant track include seasoned researchers, farm managers and educators from around the region, including (from left), Dr. Katherine Petersson of the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Anne Zajac of Virginia/Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech; Melanie Barkley of Penn State Extension, Dr. tatiana Stanton of Cornell Cooperative Extension; and Dr. Joe Emenheiser of University of Vermont Extension. The Small Ruminant track will focus on parasite management, including parasite lifecycles, pasture management to reduce parasite loads, research results on specific parasite treatments, and using genetic selection to improve your herd/flock’s ability to avoid and resist goat and sheep losses.

Learn more about all of the conference speakers at [http://20thannualvtgrazinglivestoc2016.sched.org/](http://20thannualvtgrazinglivestoc2016.sched.org/)
**Weekend Highlights**

**Friday: Evening Entertainment from 7 to 9 pm**
Two events to celebrate and educate farmers and consumers.
FREE to registered conference attendees
$12 per person over age 18 attending without conference registration

**Jim Gerrish: Grazing Around the World**
Take an excursion around the world to have a look at what stock producers and graziers around the world face on their farms, ranches, stations, and estancias. Full of before and after photos, personal stories, and international application of universally-practical grazing principals. Served up with a tasty homemade dessert featuring local products.

**Documentary Screening: Symphony of the Soil**
Symphony of the Soil is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil’s key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, Symphony of the Soil is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet. We’ll pop up some Vermont-grown popcorn to serve during the movie, and end the event with a group discussion for those who choose to participate.

**Saturday: 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 hand-crafts (with wool!), storytelling around a campfire, shelter building, sledding, cross country skiing, ice skating on Lake Morey, and some fun investigations of how agriculture and nature intersect. Children should be ready to be inside and out plus bring a change of clothes in case things get wet.

Led by Carrie Riker from Lamoille County Conservation and Mary Zentara from North Branch Nature Center. The kids’ conference is FREE, but we do ask that you register your children in advance to help us plan for staffing and materials needs.

**Saturday: Highlighting Themes**
In addition to creating a Small Ruminant Parasite Management track, the conference has several themes to highlight this year. Our Tour de Farms track continues to highlight different applications of grazing principals in locations around the East Coast, Europe, Missouri, and Texas. The Farm Vitality track is intended to explore farmers’ abilities to keep farms vital by getting involved in local and state policies that affect them, and creating partnerships with nearby farmers. The Beef track moves from calf care to cutting costs to evaluating the best marketing choices for your end products. As always, there is a complete set of Grazing Improvements, Forage and Feed, and Research tracks to get you the technical knowledge you need.
The Creative Application of Grazing Science
As part of the background research for her upcoming 2016 book, *The Art and Science of Grazing Management*, Sarah Flack toured a series of grass-based farms in the Eastern US and Europe. Sarah will show how the core principals of good grazing management—including careful planning, observation and monitoring—are being applied in very unique ways on different farms in different climates and regions using creative application of grazing system design, infrastructure, stocking densities, and plant species selection.

Stand Up & Speak Out: Getting Involved in Policy
The professional staff and farmer board members from Rural Vermont will provide an overview of the many situations in which citizen voices can and must be heard. From town boards to our state legislature, regulatory agencies, the U.S. Congress and global grassroots movements, learn how they work and how you can influence them. Using personal stories, fun interactive activities, and the opportunity to meet other aspiring activists, this workshop will give you inspiration, confidence and practical skills to speak up for causes you care about and create the change you seek.

Understanding Forages Gives You a Great Start
Have you read about the pros and cons of different forage plants, but struggled to identify them in the pasture? Do you want to better understand how and why pasture plants can be used to your best advantage? Understanding their structure and function is the place to start. Taught by UVM Extension Forage Agronomist Sid Bosworth, this session will plenty of photos and hands-on practice with potted versions of your favorite pasture plants.

Genetic Selection in Small Ruminants
This session will cover the principles of genetics, selection, and breeding programs for the improvement of animal performance and profitability. Special focus will be given to breeding for parasite resistance within a comprehensive, multi-trait selection program. Tools such as the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) and estimated breeding values (EBVs) will be introduced. The session will involve presentation, followed by a practical case study with interactive decision-making in breeding stock selection. Presented by Joe Emenheiser, University of Vermont Extension and Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension.

Real Life Grazing Do’s and Don’ts from the Field
Cheryl Cesario, Pasture Specialist with the UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture team will present a real-example slideshow of the good, the bad and the ugly she’s seen in her work and talk about strategies to reach that desired ‘good’ category. With plenty of photos, basic concepts, and paddock sizing calculations, this is a great place for the new grazier to learn the ropes.

Calve Successfully This Spring
Dr. Kent Anderson of Valleywide Veterinary Services will bring his longtime annual VT Beef Producers’ Association Calf Clinic inside to cover preparation, management, and husbandry intervention considerations for a successful calving season. Dr. Kent places heavy emphasis on the simple basics, “clean, dry, comfortable, and well nourished”, minimizing stress, and working facilities. He will also address how to recognize dystocia (difficulty calving), strategies for assisted delivery, and the needs of the newborn calf. Traditionally the presentation is very informal with questions and discussion encouraged.

Observation Highlights From Three Research Farms
For the past three years, a UVM Extension team has been documenting the effects of different management strategies on three grass-based farms in Vermont. The three farms, raising beef, dairy cows, and sheep, were evaluated for changes in forage, soil biological activity, energy use, costs and benefits of practices, and how the farmers themselves adapted to changes in strategies and conditions over time. Team members will present about some of the take away observations from each farm and what they might mean in practical terms for others farmers to learn from and act on.
Pasture & Livestock • Produce Safety and GAPS • Land Access • New American Farmers • Local Food Research • Farming & Climate Change • Youth Ag IDA

Applied Research - Technical Assistance - Outreach & Education - Partnerships

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(802) 656-5459
sustainable.agriculture@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture
My Land is Wet – What Can I Do?
For well over 30 years, precipitation in the Northeast has been on the increase, expanding wet areas on farms and leading to greater vulnerability along riparian zones due to increased volume and velocity of traveling water. What options are available to help farmers adapt? Kimberly Hagen, Grazing Specialist at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, will share what she learned from her spring 2015 trip to Minnesota visiting farms that routinely use grazing as a tool to maintain riparian edges. Jim Eikenberry, Wetlands Specialist with the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service, will describe the options available to farmers with wet land, as well as what is not allowed under USDA wetland compliance rules, including cleared forest land with streams or wetlands within.

Connecticut River Watershed Alliance
Inspired by the recent formation of proactive farmer watershed alliances in the Champlain Valley, recently a group of farmers in the Connecticut River Watershed began formation of a similar group. Starting in the White River and Ottaquechee River watersheds, the group is inviting farmers from throughout the region to join together and combine efforts to make sure that every farmer in the watershed is engaged in water quality protection. Members from the alliance will present on work that’s been done so far and where the group plans to go next.

Putting Some Buzz In Your Pastures: Improving Bee Health
A decline in honeybee and bumble bee populations over the past few decades has been attributed to many factors including pests, disease, pesticide exposure, and a loss of nectar and pollen resources. Historically, an important summer food resource for honeybees has been from forage legumes such as clovers, alfalfa and birdsfoot trefoil. This session led by UVM’s Sid Bosworth and Samantha Alger will focus on the interactions of forage legumes with wild bees and honeybees and ways to increase floral resources in pastures and hay fields for these important insects. In addition, they will discuss Vermont’s first year in the National Honey Bee Survey and provide some preliminary results from the first year of sampling.

Improving Gastrointestinal Parasite Control In Small Ruminants
This presentation will focus on producer options/resources available to optimize gastrointestinal parasite control in sheep and goats. A research update on the use of birdsfoot trefoil and cranberry plants for parasite control will be included. Presented by Katherine Petersson, University of Rhode Island, and Anne Zajac, Virginia Tech.

The Pasture Toolbox: What Should You Expect From Your Forages, and What Should They Expect of You?
Farmers are often frustrated by low hay yields, slow recovery after harvest, poor plant persistence, low plant palatability, and invasion of undesirable pasture plants. The root of the problem is often a lack of understanding about the characteristics of the plants in their pasture, how they respond to management, and how to manage them optimally. In this interactive session, we will discuss the agronomic characteristics of a wide range of forage species including: birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, red clover, kura clover, white clover, perennial ryegrass, meadow fescue, reed canary grass, Italian ryegrass, smooth bromegrass, orchardgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and more. Presented by UVM Agronomist Dan Hudson.

Managing Cow Costs
How do you move from you working for the cows to all the cows working for you? What can you afford to own and invest in to be in the livestock business? How is it that the most successful cattle producers in the US consistently earn double-digit annual return on investment. Presented by Jim Gerrish, and based on 35+ years of working with cattle producers around the country.

A Holistic Approach to Livestock Production
Come explore the connections between soil biodiversity, forages, animal and human health that can mean a more resilient approach to dairy and farming. Explore topics including soils, forages, rumen microbiome, milk fatty acids across diets. Project lead Juan Alvez of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture will highlight tools for grass farmers to monitor grazing behavior and forage utilization in real time; the impact of grazing summer annuals on milk production, composition and fatty acid profile as well as rumen function; and how biodiversity in diet can affect overall livestock wellbeing and holistic farm success.
# 20th Annual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference

## Celebrating Twenty Years of Farming Vitality

### 7:30-8:45 am Registration and Trade Show

### Session One 9:00 - 10:30 am

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### 10:45 am - 12:15 pm Welcoming Remarks and Keynote with Jim Gerrish: Kicking the Hay Habit

### Session Two 1:30 - 2:45 pm

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<td>Current Approaches For Improving Gastrointestinal Parasite Control In Small Ruminants</td>
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### 4:30-5:00 pm Ice Cream Social and Closing Remarks

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A National Grazing Tour of Texas
Held every two years, the National Conference on Grazing Lands is a gathering of grass-based farmers and ranchers from every corner of the country. It’s a terrific place to learn about issues and ideas that don’t always extend to the Northeast. UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture Pasture Program Coordinator Jenn Colby will give an overview of some of the issues raised at the NCGL, as well as highlights from several Texas ranches that the attendees had the chance to tour.

Next Steps for Vermont’s Required Ag Practices (RAPs)
While the initial public comment period on the draft Required Agricultural Practice rules closed in December, the comments have now been incorporated into a second draft for release. Come join this working session with Ryan Patch of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets as he walks through some of the changes so far, and talks about next steps for the RAPs.

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 to graze hay aftermath on neighboring farms. David will share his experience building up forage root reserves, walking sheep to nearby pastures, and documenting comparisons of grazing vs. hay feeding on weight gain.

Innovations in Controlling Barber Pole Worm and Treating Deer Worm in Goats and Sheep
Cornell Cooperative Extension Small Ruminant Extension Specialist tatiana Stanton will discuss preliminary results from on-farm studies in Northeast sheep flocks and goat herds of the effects of 1) dosing animals with copper oxide wire particles on barber pole worm populations, 2) grazing birdsfoot trefoil pastures versus conventional pastures on strongyle populations, FAMACHA scores and weight gains, and 3) two different treatment protocols on recovery rates of goats and sheep naturally infected with deer worm.

Troubleshooting Your Grazing System in Three Dimensions
Sometimes laying out plans on paper – whether in narrative or pictures – just doesn’t give the full breadth of what a living, functioning farm is all about. In this session we’ll set up a model farm to work through a production plan for it according to its resources and limitations. Planned as a follow up working session to last year; bring your examples and UVM Extension’s Kimberly Hagen will help work through them in a group problem-solving session.

Comparing Different Ways to Produce and Market Your Beef
Are you a beef producer wondering whether you would make more money as a feeder, cow/calf, or grass-finished beef operation? Would you aim at wholesale, direct, or institutional markets? Business planning specialists Rose Wilson and Sarah Flack will highlight production-side expenses such as feed, labor and infrastructure, and market channel income potential, such as how different marketing methods impact sale margins. They will help walk through assessing net return on investment and quality of life impacts to help you figure out what’s a good fit for you.

The Plots Thicken: Using Local On-farm R&D Plots to Select Suitable Forage Species for Your Farm
Are there opportunities for you to increase profitability by choosing forage species and varieties that address various needs on your farm? If you could increase the dry matter intake and lactation of your cows by using haylage made with lower-fiber grasses or grasses with higher fiber digestibility, would it be worth a look? Are there higher-yielding, more persistent legume species and varieties? What does it look like when you combine species/varieties X, Y, and Z? What kind of seeding rate is appropriate? You can read the tech sheets on the varieties available from your local vendor, or you can take a look at them in a setting similar the one on your own farm. UVM Extension Agronomist Dan Hudson planted 200+ mixed forage plots on multiple farms in Vermont and New Hampshire in 2014 and 2015 to demonstrate the answers to some of these questions and will present the results so far.
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Upholding the viability and resiliency of Vermont’s livestock farms

- **Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference**—partnering to reach over 300 farmers in six states
- **Mini Grant Program**—promoting the next level of on-farm research
- **Workshops and Pasture Walks**—visiting other farms to learn
- **Building the Rutter Fund**—promoting farmer-to-farmer mentoring
- **State Technical Committee representation**—helping set statewide natural resource policy.

Learn more about VGFA/Center for Sustainable Agriculture projects at

www.uvm.edu/pasture

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## Major Conference Sponsors

### Production Booster ($2,500)

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**USDA Risk Management Agency**

### Livestock Lifters ($1,250)

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**CROPP Cooperative**
**Organic Valley**
**Organic Prairie**
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### Soil Builders ($550)

**City Market/Onion River Co-op**
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**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**
**Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation**
**Vermont Beef Industry Council**
**Yankee Farm Credit**

### Sponsors ($275)

**Adirondack Grazers’ Cooperative**
**Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission**
**Valleywide Veterinary Services**

### Supporters (Up to $274)

**Green Mountain Spring-Rock Farm**
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 twenty 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. 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

Many thanks to the food donors and farms who generously support the conference meals, snacks, door prizes, and the ice cream social. Particular thanks go out to:

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, or marital or familial status. If you require accommodations or financial assistance to participate in this program, please let our office know (802-656-5459) by December 25 so we may assist you.

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
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LOOKING TO GET MORE VALUE OUT OF YOUR 100% Grass-Fed Beef?
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.

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 1
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“Working with the VACC team to first acquire and then expand our farm operation has been a pleasure...I appreciate the level of knowledge and commitment the VACC program brings to growing new farm enterprises in Vermont.”

- Alethea Bahnck
Vermont Heritage Grazers
Bridport

www.veda.org    ∙  1-866-828-FARM(3276)

VACC is a program of the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA).
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 1. Prizes donated so far include books, clothing, fence testers, kids’ toys, fertilizer and more. Take the Plunge! Register Today! Win a Prize!
Annual VGFA Membership  $40 farm/family  $40

Conference Non-Member Registration  ____ attendees X $70

Conference Member** Registration  $50  
**2016 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 Full Day Workshop: Advanced Grazing Topics with Jim Gerrish  
_____ attendees X $50

Attendee names: __________________________________________________________

Friday Half-Day Workshop : Thinking About Organic Transition?  
_____ attendees X $20

Attendee names: __________________________________________________________

Remember both Friday Night events are FREE to Friday/Saturday Registered Attendees

Friday Night: Grazing Around the World with Jim Gerrish  
_____ attendees X $12

Friday Night: Symphony of the Soil documentary screening  
_____ attendees X $12

Donation to the Jon Rutter Memorial Fund  

$5 Early reg discount if postmarked by January 1  (_______)

Total Enclosed  _______

Prefer to pay online? Instructions at www.uvm.edu/pasture!
Confirmed Tradeshow Exhibitors Include:

- Adirondack Grazers’ Cooperative
- Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative
- Health Hero Consulting
- Morrisons Custom Feeds
- Yankee Farm Credit
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- USDA Risk Management
- Wellscoft Fence Systems, LLC
- USDA National Ag Statistics Service
- Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation
- Vermont Beef Industry Council
- Vermont NRCS

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Visit http://20thannualvtgrazinglivestoc2016.sched.org/ to check out workshops and speakers, and plan your event.

Follow the conference on Twitter and Facebook!

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USDA
Risk Management Agency

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