

Balancing High Dairy Production with Creative Forage Crops

A visit hosted by Howacres Farm, Tunbridge, VT



Kyle Thygesen manages the primarily Holstein herd at Howacres Farm in Tunbridge to maximize production and profit within the requirements of organic dairy certification and land

base limitations. Part of his management plan has included a dedicated area planted into forage turnips, barley, and oats. Kyle will share his results carefully attending to the needs of his highest producing cows, making the most of the land's feed production, and experimenting with new forage crops. Kyle will also be trying a sorghum-sudan grass-millet combination this spring. At the time we visit, Kyle will just have planted new forage mixes for fall production, and we'll be able to view the grazing status of the existing crops.

Agenda

- 10:00** Introductions
- 10:15** Pasture walk & farm tour
- 1:00** Brown bag lunch & continued discussions
- 2:00** Adjourn

DATE: August 12, 2008

TIME: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

COST: \$15 to attend, free for VGFA, or NOFA-VT members. Bring your own lunch, we will provide beverages, and dessert. **Please RSVP for planning purposes!**

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 89 Exit 3, travel approximately five miles to the intersection of Route 14 and Route 110. Travel north on Route 110 four miles; there will be a sign for the farm on the left. From I-89 Exit 2, travel six miles north to the intersection of Routes 14 and 110.

QUESTIONS?: Jenn Colby, (802) 656-0858, jcolby@uvm.edu, www.uvm.edu/pasture

Sponsored by:

The VT Pasture Network Program Program at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, the VT Grass Farmers Association, and USDA Risk Management Agency.



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. If you require accommodations or financial assistance to participate in this program, please let our office know (802-656-5459) by July 16 so we may assist you. UVM Extension proudly supports the Center as a forward-looking model for community-university partnerships.