

2023 Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference



Thursday, March 9, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open

[Vermont Technical College - Judd Hall](#)
[124 Admin Dr., Randolph Center, Vermont 05061](#)

The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Program is pleased to invite you to the 11th Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference!

We are happy to be joining together in-person again for this annual conference! This year we will start with a presentation on improved pasture management using satellite imagery with Organic Valley's **Dr. Greg Brickner**, followed by a presentation on organic dairy farm management decisions with **Sarah Flack**, consultant, **Jen Miller** from NOFA-VT, and a few local farmers. The morning will end with research updates from UVM's **Heather Darby** and **Sara Ziegler**.

The afternoon will include a presentation on managing high feed costs in 2023 with **Bill Kipp**, an independent dairy consultant, as well as hearing from UVM's **John Barlow** on housing, bedding, and mastitis risk. UVM postdoctoral research fellow **Bryony Sands** will share her research on parasite management and the pasture ecosystem. **Dr. Brickner** will complete the day with a presentation on health issues during the grazing season.

Cost is \$25 per person

Register by March 6 at go.uvm.edu/2023organicdairyconference. If you cannot register online or have questions about your registration, please call the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at 802-656-8407. Questions about the conference? Please contact Susan at susan.brouillette@uvm.edu or 802-524-6501.

CCA CEUs and VAAFM water quality credits available.

Accessibility: If you require an accommodation related to a disability, please contact UVM Student Accessibility Services at access@uvm.edu, or (802) 656-7753 as soon as possible.



NORTHWEST CROPS & SOILS PROGRAM



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802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 | susan.brouillette@uvm.edu

www.uvm.edu/nwcrops

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

AGENDA

2023 Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference

Time	Vermont Technical College– Judd Hall
9:00 am—10:00 am	Registration and visiting exhibitor tables.
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Welcome, Heather Darby, UVM
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Improved Pasture Management using Satellite Imagery, Dr. Greg Brickner, Organic Valley. New satellite technology can allow graziers to predict pasture inventory weeks in advance and see details of plant health across all paddocks. This can all be done without added labor.
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Organic Dairy Farm Management Decisions and Cost of Production, Sarah Flack of Sarah Flack Consulting and Jen Miller of NOFA-VT. During this time of rising input costs and low milk prices, farms need efficient, cost-effective management decision making in areas where farmers still have some control to decrease cost of production. Sarah Flack and Jen Miller will review some of the key production and financial benchmarks from their cost of production projects. Two organic dairy farmers (one organic, one grass-fed) will join them to discuss their experiences with the variables, considerations, and management decisions that impact those benchmarks on each of their individual farms.
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Research Updates, Heather Darby and Sara Ziegler. Hear updated research information from UVM’s Heather Darby and Sara Ziegler.
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	LUNCH—Visit Exhibitors
1:00 pm –1:45 pm	Managing High Feed Costs in 2023, Bill Kipp. Bill, an independent dairy consultant, will share some thoughts and ideas on managing high feed costs in organic dairy farming.
1:45 pm—2:30 pm	Housing, bedding, and mastitis risk: Update on bedding and mastitis studies in Vermont, John Barlow, UVM. What is the winter housing and bedding situation on organic dairy farms in Vermont? Does the choice of housing and bedding impact mastitis risk? What’s new in mastitis and mastitis control?
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break and Visiting Exhibitors
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Parasite Management and the Pasture Ecosystem , Bryony Sands, UVM Bryony will talk about her ongoing research in VT and NY, which examines the impact of various parasite management strategies on the interactions between pests, parasites, beneficial insects, and soil health in pasture ecosystems. She hopes to identify strategies that optimize these interactions to simultaneously reduce the risk from pests and parasites and improve environmental outcomes.
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Health Issues During the Grazing Season, Dr. Greg Brickner, Organic Valley. Major health challenges on pasture and solutions that fit organic standards.
4:00 pm	Wrap Up & Evaluation

Our Speakers



John Barlow, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at UVM. Initially trained as a veterinarian, John's PhD training is in the area of veterinary infectious disease epidemiology. John received a B.S. in Pathobiology from the University of Connecticut, a D.V.M. from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in infectious disease mathematical and molecular epidemiology from the University of Vermont. John is interested in applying mathematical and molecular epidemiological tools to understand how disease control interventions affect pathogenic and commensal bacterial diversity on dairy farms. His current studies evaluate the impact of housing and bedding systems on mastitis risk among organic dairy cattle, the genetic diversity of staphylococci isolated from cattle and humans on small-scale dairy farms, and the potential efficacy of plant-derived antimicrobial compounds.

Greg Brickner, PhD, works for Organic Valley as a staff veterinarian and grazing specialist. He and his family live on a farm in Wonewoc, WI where they graze sheep.



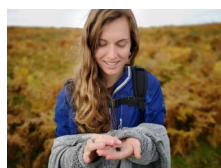
Dr. Heather Darby is an agronomist and nutrient management specialist with UVM Extension. Over her almost 20 years with Extension, Heather has developed an extensive research and outreach program to address critical crop production and management needs of farmers across the state and region. Her efforts bring relevant research-based agronomic information that address both current and future needs and create opportunities to advance Vermont's agricultural industries.

Sarah Flack is an author and consultant specializing in grass-based livestock farming systems. Her focus is helping farmers make well informed decisions by looking at each farm's crop, grazing and herd management system to meet farm and farm families financial and quality of life goals.



Bill Kipp is an independent dairy consultant from Middlebury, VT with areas of focus including field nutrition and holistic farm management consulting. He has 42 years of experience consulting in the Northeast and specializes in conventional and organic dairy, as well as grass-fed.

Jen Miller is the Farmer Services Director at NOFA-VT. Jen supports farmers at all stages of development to reach their business and quality of life goals through business and transition planning services, which can include in-depth cost of production analysis for organic dairy farms.



Bryony Sands is a postdoctoral research fellow studying cattle pest and parasite management, beneficial insect biodiversity, and pasture ecosystem function in livestock systems. She was at the University of Bristol in the UK for 11 years before coming to Vermont to work with the Gund Institute in October 2021. She will talk about her ongoing research in VT and NY.

Sara Ziegler is a research specialist focused on perennial and annual forage production and pasture management with UVM Extension. She works closely with farmers on developing and maintaining nutrient management plans and manages several research projects focused on organic and grass-fed dairy systems.



Conference Registration

Please plan to register in advance for the conference. To guarantee a lunch at the conference, we need you to register no later than March 3. The fee is \$25 per person and includes conference materials and lunch.

Conference Location

Judd Hall on the Vermont Technical College campus, 124 Admin Drive, Randolph Ctr, VT 05061. Directions: 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. Judd Hall is in the center of campus and off from Rte 66.

Online registration is preferred, but you can also call or register by mail if needed.

Please register online by Monday, March 6 at <https://go.uvm.edu/2023organicdairyconference>

Phone: If you cannot register online or have questions about your registration, please call the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at 802-656-8407.

Mail: See the registration form on the next page and only use if you cannot register online please.

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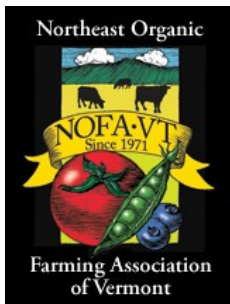
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Registration Form

Name 1: _____	Farm/Business Name: _____
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	# People TOTAL
Registration fee \$25 per person :	_____ x \$25 \$ _____
Total amount enclosed (USD funds only):	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to **UVM or University of Vermont**. **Mail to:** UVM Extension NWCS, 278 So. Main Street, Suite 2, St. Albans, VT 05478 **before March 2, 2023.**

Please register early for the conference as space is limited. Registration deadline is **Monday, March 6.**

Questions? Phone (802) 524-6501 or E-mail: heather.darby@uvm.edu or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu

Accessibility: If you require an accommodation related to a disability, please contact UVM Student Accessibility Services at access@uvm.edu, or (802) 656-7753 as soon as possible.