

2024 Organic Dairy Days

2 days and 2 locations

To bring this meeting to you, we are offering the same agenda and speakers on two separate days at two different locations.

We hope you can join us at one of the locations!

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Eastside Restaurant, 47 Landing Street, Newport, VT 05855

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

American Legion, 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491

ORGANIC DAIRY DAYS AGENDA

10am to 10:15am, Welcome, Heather Darby

10:15am to 11am, Fay Benson, Is Your Heifer Program Draining Your Dairy or Adding to it?

11:15am to 12pm, Grant and Program Opportunities updates from local agencies including VAAFM, NRCS, Working Lands, VHCB, and DBIC

12pm to 1pm, Lunch and Table Discussions

1pm to 1:45pm, Farmers Haden Gooch, Mayday Farm, and Doug Hartkopf, Hart to Hart Farm, will discuss on-farm innovations through technology and forage management on their farms

2pm to 2:45pm, Kurt Cotanch, Feeding the Most Forages as Possible

2:45pm to 3:30pm, Dayna Locitzer, Making the most out of what you already have: maximizing milk production by improving reproductive performance and a cow's daily time budget

3:30pm Wrap Up, Evaluation, and Adjourn

Cost is \$25 per person

Register online at go.uvm.edu/2024organicdairydays or please call UVM Non-Credit Registration office at 802-656-8470 or email noncredit@uvm.edu to register by March 8. For general conference questions, contact Susan at 802-656-7611 or sbrouill@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 by February 29, 2024.

Thank you to our Sponsors!



We welcome sponsors for the conference, but due to limited space, we cannot offer exhibitor tables this year. If you are interested in sponsoring, register here <https://go.uvm.edu/2024organicdairysponsor> or please call Susan Brouillette at 802-656-7611.

NORTHWEST CROPS & SOILS PROGRAM



Northwest Crops and Soils Team | 278 South Main St, Suite 2 | St. Albans, VT 05478

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

www.uvm.edu/nwcrops

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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Our Speakers

Fay Benson is a retired Cornell small Dairy Extension Specialist.

Fay's presentation title is "Is your heifer program draining your dairy or adding to it?", which is a review of heifer analysis done on 15 organic dairy farms in New York.



Kurt Cotanch is an independent Dairy Nutrition consultant working as Barn Swallow Consulting. He has spent many years in the dairy industry focusing on nutrition, forage quality and rumen function. He will share information on Feeding the Most Forages as Possible.

Haden Gooch and Katie Gualtieri have a small organic dairy operation in Central Maine called Mayday Farm. They milk 40 holsteins in a tie-stall facility and ship 100 percent of the milk to Stonyfield. They operate on about 100 acres of pasture/cropland, but buy in most of their stored feed from a local custom operator. They purchase alfalfa haylage and corn silage, and produce a small amount of dry hay themselves. They feed a TMR in the winter and a pTMR during the grazing season. Their herd average is about 70 lbs 4.0 fat/3.0 protein and 50,000 scc.



They began their farming operation in 2019 on rented ground in Monmouth, Maine and in 2020, they purchased a 350 acre dairy farm in Leeds, Maine and in January 2022 shipped their first milk to Stonyfield. They have nearly a decade of experience that helped them make a small dairy farm viable and they shared they are very excited to continue to learn, grow, and adapt to the challenges that dairy farming in the northeast provides.



Doug and Linda Hartkopf own and operate Hart to Hart farm in Albion, Maine. The 290 acre farm is home to 60 registered Jersey milking cows housed in a free stall. Youngstock are housed in two hoop style pack barns. In 1998, they became members of Organic Valley after converting their entire farm to organic. In addition, they rent another 87 acres. Soil and crop management is a priority. The home farm utilizes rotational grazing for both the milking herd and youngstock. Land is routinely turned over to introduce a variety of crops that are best suited for grazing and crops the will build up soil health.

Dr. Dayna Locitzer has over 10 years of experience working with pasture-based dairies in the Northeast. She worked on organic dairy farms in the Hudson Valley of New York for 6 years before starting vet school. Dr. Locitzer currently works as a large animal veterinarian at Green Mountain Bovine Clinic in Chesterfield, NH where she provides services for the small dairies in that region.



Grant and Program Opportunities presentation will include brief program updates from the following organizations: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Working Lands, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF), Dairy Business Innovation Center (DBIC), and VT Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB).

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

NORTHWEST CROPS & SOILS PROGRAM



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United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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