

Online Educational Resources

UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program

Agricultural Curriculum- An interactive curriculum for educators of agricultural programs at career centers, technical public high schools, and technical institutes to get students to consider the environmental impacts of farming. This curriculum has been designed for high school level students and addresses the environmental priority of ensuring clean and safe water, by working to manage nutrients in water systems by reducing nutrient run-off from soil, while maintaining quality agricultural yields and minimizing harm. Topics include soil, nutrient, and field management practices that both keep water supplies clean and promote crop productivity. *For more information and access to curriculum materials, please contact Susan Brouillette at susan.brouillette@uvm.edu or (802) 524-6501.*

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Online courses through eXtension (<https://campus.extension.org/>)-The UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils program has designed a number of online courses that include:

An Introduction to Organic Dairy Production is a self-directed course designed for Extension educators and other agriculture service providers, as well as farmers and students who want to better understand certified organic dairy farming. It is made of ten modules on key organic dairy topics. Each module combines required readings, narrated lessons, optional homework exercises and recommended resources, and end-of-module quizzes. *Link to online course:* <https://campus.extension.org/course/view.php?id=253>

On the Ground: A closer look at organic dairy pastures, forages, and soils is a follow-up to the Introduction to Organic Dairy Production online course offered by the eOrganic Dairy Team. It covers certified organic forages, pastures, and soils for organic dairy production systems in greater depth. *Link to online course:* <https://campus.extension.org/course/view.php?id=1212>

Vermont Custom Manure Applicator Online Training teaches participants about Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), regulatory requirements for custom manure applicators in Vermont, nutrient management plans as they relate to custom applicators, and record-keeping requirements. This course includes video that requires a good internet connection. *Link to online course:* <https://campus.extension.org/course/view.php?id=1414>

Vermont RAPs and Nutrient Planning for Small Farm Operations is a course designed for small farms, but is applicable to farms of all sizes. Participants will learn about Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), how to take a soil sample & interpret results, how to take a manure sample & interpret results, field by field nutrient management planning, record-keeping requirements, and how to calibrate manure spreaders. This course includes videos, resources, and worksheets. *Link to online course:* <https://campus.extension.org/course/view.php?id=1701>

This course has been made possible with generous funding from the VT Agency of Agricultural Food and Markets Clean Water Initiative Grant, "Innovative Training Tools to Help Small Farm Operations Comply with Required Agricultural Practices," grant #02200-ARM-CWF-2017-UVM.

Webinar series and videos- Watch University of Vermont Extension's collection of instructional YouTube videos and webinar series that include topics like growing grains in Vermont, hemp & hop production, cover crop implementation strategies, and more at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cropsoilsvteam/playlists>. Webinars and videos include:

Dig into Your Day with Cover Crops and Conservation webinar series- This webinar series will discuss current research on cover crops and conservation in various cropping systems, interesting findings, and common obstacles to implementing a successful cover crop and no-till program. Each webinar will be 30 minutes and will end with a 15 minute Q&A session. YouTube videos of completed webinars will be posted when available at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaZCgOs78cqjdZmFancIkgonGV6HjP0Ow> or at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/cover-crops-and-reduced-tillage>.

No-Till Training Program for Agricultural Service Providers resource hub and webinar series - Each of the 8 webinars in the series hosts a farmer, researcher, or other expert practitioner. Webinars discuss common obstacles to implementing a successful no-till program, address these issues through field proven technical knowledge, and follow a training plan that will best enable the TSP (technical service provider) to support the farmers in the no-till practice transition. Topics include: an introduction to no-till; fertility & manure management; herbicide & pest management; soil & water management; economics of no-till & record keeping; equipment and no-till application tools; precision agriculture for no-till; and a conclusion on adapting to a new management style. Full training program and webinar series available at: <https://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=1606>

No-till Tuesdays webinar series- Interested in no-till farming? In this series, you will hear from our own Heather Darby and Jeff Sanders on no-till tips and equipment considerations; PennState experts Doug Beegle and John Tooker who addressed manure and pest management in reduced tillage systems; and John Jemison and Rick Kersbergen from the University of Maine who discussed managing soils in no-till. *Video recordings available at:* <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaZCgOs78cqjX0yDCwhAIJEa5XYZ39nAb>

Tile Drainage webinar series- Learn about best management practices to use on tile acreages, how farmland with subsurface tile drainage may affect water quality, and Required Agricultural Practices or RAPs affect the use of subsurface tile drainage. Links to each weeks presentation can be found on our website (<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/cover-crops-and-reduced-tillage>) under Tile Drainage Webinar Series- Drainage and Doughnuts.

Coffee Break for Cover Crops series- With funding support from the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education program, USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant, and Northeast SARE, we offered a webinar series focused on practical cover cropping tips you can use on your farm and/or in your work with farmers. *Video recordings available at:* https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaZCgOs78cqjJoH-3J_D98Hrtph3A-tHC

Vermont Hops Power Hour- Over the past two years, the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops & Soils (NWCS) Team has been working with many of you on our NE-SARE funded project to advance pest and nutrient management strategies for Northeast hop production. Video recordings available at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaZCgOs78cqi-5V2G3GaLRxFBNgmeM0Nb>

Virtual Reality (VR Scouting Tool for Hop Growers (VRScout Hops) - Hop growers must be experts in scouting for insects and diseases that can affect their hop quality and yields. VRScout Hops transports growers into a virtual hop yard where they are tasked to identify some of these pesky organisms, beneficial insects, and diseases seen in the Northeast. This tool is a unique platform for growers to practice scouting year-round, better preparing them for the field season. Find a video from Across the Fence showcasing this VR tool as well as a download for the VRScout Hops Game Manual here: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/hops>

A few more UVM Extension related events to share:

QuaranTeen Time - Getting College & Career Ready

We are inviting high school youth thinking about life after graduation to join Vermont 4-H and Lindsay Carpenter, Outreach Counselor with Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) for one or all three sessions - April 7, 14 and 21 @ 3pm online - to discuss how to get ready for college & career ready. Lindsay will provide tips, tricks, and answer your questions related to college, affordability, and alternative pathways to careers. Learn more and sign up at: www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements

All Youth are Invited to 4-H Distance Learning Socials - Kick Off March 30

Join Vermont 4-H each week on Mondays at 3PM as long as schools are closed. Each week a different topic in science, healthy living, and civic engagement will be introduced alongside fun take home challenges. We will meet back up on Thursdays at 3PM to share out our findings. March 30th will kick off our first Distance Learning Social on photography. Open to all youth ages 8+. Learn more and sign up at: www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements

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802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 (toll-free in VT.) | www.uvm.edu/nwcrops

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