

2019 VERMONT ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 14, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open

The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crop & Soils Program and NOFA Vermont's Organic Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program are pleased to invite you to the 9th Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference!

We'll start the day by hearing **Gary Hirshberg's** perspective on the status and future of the industry. **Linda Tikofsky** from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA, Inc. will share practical information to help maximize milk quality on your farm. After lunch **Dr. Larry Tranel**, an economist from Iowa State University, will discuss the economics of grazing dairy heifers as well as low cost parlor opportunities. **Wade Miller**, from Organic Valley, will share his experience with developing and hosting Farmer Profit Circles. We'll complete the day by breaking out into discussion groups to have opportunities for productive conversations on topics of interest that develop throughout the day. We hope to see you there!

[Vermont Technical College - Judd Hall](http://www.uvm.edu/~nwsc/2019organicdairy)
[124 Admin Dr., Randolph Center, Vermont 05061](http://www.uvm.edu/~nwsc/2019organicdairy)

Cost is \$25 per person, includes lunch
Deadline for registration is March 7.

To register - mail in, call 802-524-6501, or visit:

www.regonline.com/2019organicdairy

To request a disability related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 by Feb. 21, 2019 so we may assist you.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



We are excited to welcome Gary Hirshberg Co-Founder and

Chief Organic Optimist of Stonyfield Farm, the world's leading organic yogurt producer. He is the author of *Stirring It Up: How to Make Money and Save the World*. Gary frequently speaks on topics including sustainability, organic agriculture and the profitability of green business. Gary also serves on numerous corporate and non-profit advisory boards. He has received 12 honorary doctorates and numerous awards for corporate and environmental leadership including a 2015 Champion for Children Award from Mount Sinai Hospital's Children's Environmental Health Center and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the US EPA.

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

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www.uvm.edu/nwcrops

NORTHWEST CROPS & SOILS PROGRAM



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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

AGENDA

2019 Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference

Time	Vermont Technical College– Judd Hall
9:00 am—9:45 am	Registration and visiting exhibitor tables.
9:45 am – 10:45 am	Welcome, Announcements and Keynote– <i>Perspective on Organic Dairy—History, Challenges, and Future</i>. Gary Hirshberg: Chairman of Stonyfield Organic, will offer his perspective on the history of organic dairy, the current challenges and opportunities for the future. He'll address the question, "What is our part in positively influencing what is to come?"
10:45 am - 11:30 am	<i>Milk Quality: It's the little things</i>– Linda Tikofsky: As much as we would like one, there is no silver bullet to achieving excellent milk quality. Instead, it is having a consistent approach to preventive herd management and conscientious milk harvesting and storage. We will discuss the how's and why's of these practices, and ideas for troubleshooting milk quality problems on your dairy.
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Research updates: Hear brief overviews from researchers from UVM, UNH, and other regional institutions conducting research pertinent to the organic dairy industry. Posters will be set up and researchers made available following lunch to discuss their specific research projects more in depth.
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	LUNCH , Poster Session, and Visit Exhibitors
1:15 pm –2:00 pm	<i>Economics of grazing dairy heifers and TRANS Iowa Low Cost Parlors</i> —Dr. Larry Tranel, Iowa State University: This presentation will share information on the economics of grazing dairy heifers as well as low cost parlors, including building a TRANS Iowa Low Cost Parlor.
2:00 pm—2:30 pm	<i>Learning together: Forming Farmer Profit Circles</i>– Wade Miller: Learn about how organizing farmer discussion groups has helped producers evaluate and improve their management. We'll hear about current circles in other regions and from local producers with past experience with these discussion groups in Vermont.
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break, Visiting Exhibitors, and Ideas for Discussion Group Topics
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Roundtable Discussions– Moderators will help facilitate productive conversations between farmers and other conference attendees on topics of interest generated throughout the day and of interest to attendees. Conference speakers will be available for questions, but this is time to hear from the experts on the ground everyday! Come with questions/ideas or brainstorm with others during our afternoon break.
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Report from roundtables– Moderators report back from roundtable discussions a quick synopsis of the discussions in each group and present conclusions or questions developed.
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Wrap up & Evaluation
4:00 pm	Adjourn

Our Speakers

Gary Hirshberg is the Co-Founder and Chief Organic Optimist of Stonyfield Farm, the world's leading organic yogurt producer. Gary frequently speaks on topics including sustainability, organic agriculture and the profitability of green business. He has received 12 honorary doctorates and numerous awards for corporate and environmental leadership.

Linda Tikofsky, PhD, is a Senior Associate Director, Cattle Professional Services, Dairy at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health - US. She has extensive experience working with dairy producers and veterinarians on issues relating to udder health and milk quality.

Heather Darby, PhD, is an agronomy and soil specialist with UVM Extension where she conducts outreach and on-farm research.

John Barlow, PhD, is an Associate Professor at UVM. He studies veterinary infectious disease epidemiology including mastitis in dairy cows.

Sarah Flack is a grazing livestock consultant. She works with a variety of farmers around the state to improve grazing systems, farm viability, and collaborates with UVM and other institutions on research projects.

Allen Wilder is a M.S. student at UVM. He studies the readily available energy content and agronomic performance of perennial forage grass/legume mixtures.

Andre Brito, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Organic Dairy Management at UNH. His research interest is to balance the supply of rumen-degradable protein and fermentable energy to enhance microbial protein synthesis while reducing nitrogen excretion to the environment.

Larry Tranel, PhD, grew up on a SW Wisconsin dairy farm, spent 10 years with University of Wisconsin-Extension as a Dairy Farm Management Agent and the past 20 years as a Dairy Specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Dr. Tranel specializes in dairy farm mental health, milking systems, dairy facilities, grazing, organics and managing dairy farm finances.

Wade Miller works at Organic Valley as the Farm Development Manager. His team provides members and management with expertise in the areas of veterinary care, nutrition, soils agronomy, animal welfare, pasture management, business planning, and young member development. Wade also has 26 years as an agricultural lender.

In Memory of Enid Wonacott, a brief tribute will be offered for Enid, long time Executive Director of NOFA VT and advocate for organic agriculture in Vermont.



Conference Location

124 Admin Drive, Randolph Ctr, VT 05061

The conference will be held at Judd Hall on the Vermont Technical College campus in Randolph Center, Vermont. To get there, 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.

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 7.

The fee is \$25 per person and includes conference materials and lunch.

You may register for the conference either online, by mail, or call.

Online: www.regonline.com/2019organicdairy

Mail: Please complete the registration form and send with a check, made payable to "University of Vermont" to:

UVM Extension

ATTN: Organic Dairy Conference

278 South Main Street, Suite 2

St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: Call Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 ext. 432.



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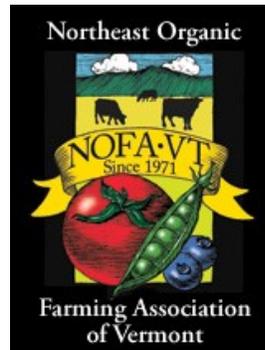
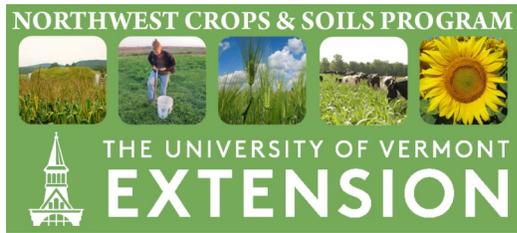
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Conference Organizers



Registration Form

Name 1: _____
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Registration fee \$25 per person :	_____	x \$25	\$ _____
Total amount enclosed (USD funds only):			\$ _____

Please make checks payable to **UVM or University of Vermont**

Please register early for the conference as space is limited. To guarantee a spot, please register by **no later than March 7.**

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

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