

2020 Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open

The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crop & Soils Program are pleased to invite you to the 10th Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference!

We'll start the day learning from and celebrating **Dr. Sidney Bosworth's** extensive career as UVM Extension's Forage Agronomist. **Patrice Vincent** from Belisle Solution Nutrition, Inc. and local farmers will share their approach to improving farm efficiency and profitability through optimizing on-farm forage production. After lunch, **Brad Heins** from the University of Minnesota will discuss research geared toward genetics, breeding, and raising youngstock on organic dairy farms. We will also hear from a local farmer panel sharing their experiences combating low milk prices through diversification. At the end of the day **Roy Desrochers**, from UVM Extension, will lead us through sensory exercises to help us learn more about the unique flavor profiles that our dairy products may have to offer.

[Vermont Technical College - Judd Hall](#)

[124 Admin Dr., Randolph Center, Vermont 05061](#)

Cost is \$25 per person

View conference website, go.uvm.edu/2020organicdairyconference for updated information and to registration online. Please register by 3/4/20. Questions? Call Susan at 802-524-6501, ext. 432.

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 February 19, 2020 so we may assist you.

Conference Keynote



We are excited to welcome Dr. Sidney Bosworth, UVM Extension Forage Agronomist as our conference keynote speaker. Over the last 30+ years, Sid has served as the state's forage expert focusing on forage crop management and utilization, forage quality, pasture and grazing management, and pest/weed management. His research and outreach in these areas have been instrumental in helping dairy farmers in VT and across the Northeast improve their forage systems. Join us in learning from Dr. Bosworth's extensive career as we thank him for his service. Dr. Bosworth will be retiring from UVM Extension in April 2020.

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

NORTHWEST CROPS & SOILS PROGRAM



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
EXTENSION

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Additional funding provided by USDA RMA under award number RM18RMETS524C022. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. 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. Any reference to commercial products, trade names, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

AGENDA

2020 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 – 10:30 am	Welcome, Announcements and Keynote— <i>Oh, How Far We’ve Come—Reflections and lessons from a lifetime of forage research and education.</i> Dr. Sidney Bosworth, UVM: Dr. Bosworth will share his reflections and practical lessons he’s learned in his 30+ year career as UVM Extension Forage Agronomist.
10:30 am - 11:15 am	<i>Maximizing Efficiency and Profitability— It starts in the field!</i>— Patrice Vincent, Belisle Solution Nutrition, Inc.: Modifying rations and animal management is just a temporary patch over deeper issues that impact farm economics. Learn from Patrice and local farmers how they approach feed and farm efficiency concerns from the source, the field.
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Research updates: Hear brief overviews from researchers from UVM, NOFA-VT, 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.
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	LUNCH—Poster Session and Visit Exhibitors
1:15 pm –2:00 pm	<i>Setting Your Herd up for Success: Tips in genetics, breeding, and raising youngstock</i> —Brad Heins: This session will address breeding and genetic considerations on organic dairies, including an evaluation of breeds common to organic dairy farms (calving, production, components, A2 milk, and economic performance), the latest research on cross breeding and genetic considerations for your farm. Strategies for raising organic dairy calves in group housing will also be discussed.
2:00 pm—2:45 pm	<i>Creative Strategies For Surviving Low Milk Prices— Farmer Panel:</i> Hear from local farmers Eric Paris and Cameron Clark about the creative endeavors they have undertaken to diversify their farms and explore new markets including growing hemp, and transitioning to 100% grass-fed.
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break and Visiting Exhibitors
3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	<i>Evaluating the Sensory Characteristics of Milk</i>—Roy Desrochers, UVM Extension: Participate in a range of interactive aroma and flavor exercises to explore the basics of objective descriptive sensory analysis (taste and smell) with a focus on dairy products. Learn the sensory properties that are most important to consumers and success in the market. In addition, hear some results from a project funded by the USDA on grass-fed milk as an example of using descriptive sensory analysis, and knowledge of the end consumer’s needs, to help farmers be successful.
3:50 pm – 4:00 pm	Wrap Up & Evaluation
4:00 pm	Adjourn

Our Speakers

Sidney Bosworth, PhD, UVM Extension Forage Agronomist, who has served as the state's forage expert focusing on forage crop management & utilization, forage quality, pasture & grazing management, and pest/weed management for the past 30+ years.

Cameron Clark is a dairy producer from Williston. She transitioned to once a day milking recently because of labor constraints and also transitioned to grass-fed this past summer. Cameron will share the lifestyle/labor management and economic reasons she diversified markets to remain in dairy.

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

Roy Desrochers is a sensory expert who has been supporting the food and beverage industry for over 35 years. His experience includes numerous global initiatives including milk, cheese, and yogurt. His focus is on the link between product sensory attributes, consumer acceptance, and sustained success in the market. He has supported major efforts for dairy companies in the USA, as well as Europe and Asia.

Brad Heins is an Associate Professor of Organic Dairy Management at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN. The Center has a 130-head herd in a certified organic system. His research and extension programs focus on best management practices for organic production, management intensive grazing, supplementation strategies for dairy cattle, crossbreeding, and groups rearing of calves for dairy production systems. He also serves on the Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force and Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture Board of Directors.

Lawrence Horst has been managing his herd of around 50 Holsteins grass-fed for about 4 years. Since moving to his farm in upstate NY, he has been working on reclaiming and improving the pastures and hay fields that had been neglected. Lawrence will participate with Patrice Vincent during his presentation.

Mohammad Ghelich Khan, PhD, and **Luiz Henrique P. Silva, PhD**, from University of New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems, will present research results on the effects of alfalfa-grass and red-clover grass mixture on milk production and components including milk fatty acids, and canola as a forage resource.

Eric Paris is owner and operator of Tamarlane Farm and Kingdom View Compost in Lyndonville, VT. The farm produces certified organic grass-fed beef, certified organic vegetables, and other products that are utilized by The Freighthouse, a restaurant run by three generations of the Paris family. Kingdom View Compost utilizes foodscraps and other wastes from their farm and the local area converting nearly 800 tons of waste into compost that is returned to their soils.

Patrice Vincent is an experienced sales representative with Belisle Solution Network out of Canada. He is proficient in agronomy, management, agribusiness, and strategic planning.

Allen Wilder is a native Vermonter and a research assistant under Sid Bosworth at the University of Vermont. He will share research on managing legume-grass mixtures for high forage diets.

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 9. 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.

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

Online from our conference web page: go.uvm.edu/2020organicdairyconference

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

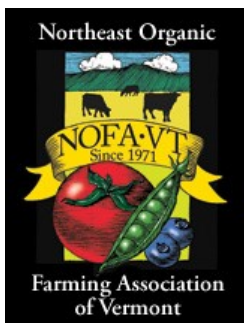
Phone: Call Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 ext. 432.

Thank you to our sponsors!

SILVER LEVEL



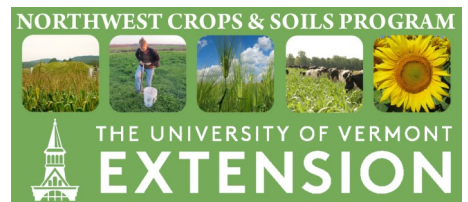
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



Additional funding provided through UVM partnership with USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award number RM18RMETS524C022.



This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2015-49200-24225.



Registration Form

Name 1: _____

Farm/Business Name: _____

Name 2: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

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**

Please register early for the conference as space is limited. To guarantee a spot, please register by **no later than March 4.**

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

*To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu by February 19, 2020 so we may assist you.