



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – January 4, 2011

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

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<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSN. ANNUAL MEETING

Monday Jan. 31, Capital Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier. 802-223-5252. www.capitolplaza.com

- 8:00 **Registration, Trade Show, Refreshments**
- 9:30 **President's Remarks**
Bob Pomykala, Pomykala Farm, Grand Isle
- 9:45 **People, Pests, Products – a Tour of Vermont Vegetable and Berry Farms in 2010**
Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension
- 10:15 **Insect and Disease Updates for Vegetable and Berry Crops**
Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic
- 10:45 **Growing Lettuce above Greenhouse Tomatoes to Increase Profit**
Dave Hartshorn, Hartshorn's Farm Stand, Waitsfield
- 11:15 **Growing and Marketing Wholesale Vegetables at Arethusa Farm**
Thomas Case and Ben Dana, Arethusa Farm, Burlington
- 11:45 **Update from Industry Representatives on New Products**
Trade Show Exhibitors
- 12:00 **Luncheon and Trade Show**
- 1:15 **Business Meeting: Election of Officers, etc.**
- 1:30 **Updates from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**
Secretary Chuck Ross and Steve Parise, GAPS auditor
- 2:00 **Implementing Food Safety Plans on Farms – What We've Learned**
Ginger Nickerson, UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- 2:30 **Marketing Diversified Crops at Clear Brook Farm**
Andrew Knafel, Clear Brook Farm, Shaftsbury
- 3:00 **Heating a Greenhouse Using Captured Sugarhouse Steam**
Chad Virkler, Smokey House, Danby
- 3:30 **Adjourn - Trade Show**

PRE-REGISTRATIONS - Must be received by Jan. 26th (Add \$5 for at-the-door registrations.)
\$35 Members, \$45 Non-Members, *this fee includes a hot lunch and coffee break.*

Membership dues for 2011 are \$50; benefits include:

- 2010-11 New England Vegetable or Small Fruit Management Guide
- or, one book or video of equal value (\$20, see list on VV&BGA web site);
- a subscription to Agriview, VT Agency of Agriculture newsletter
- a subscription to the Vermont Vegetable and Berry News (by email)
- a subscription to American Vegetable Grower and American Fruit Grower
- eligibility a research grant from the Association
- \$10 registration discount at the association's annual meeting
- registration fee waiver at on-farm workshops
- inclusion on the association's grower listserv (buy, sell equipment & share info).

No-frills membership option: \$20 for 2011, benefits include:

- inclusion on the association's listserv
- A subscription to the Vermont Vegetable and Berry News (by email)
- a subscription to American Vegetable Grower and American Fruit Grower
- showing your support for the vegetable and berry industry

Mail check made out to VVBGA to: Doug Johnstone, P.O, Box 701, Springfield, VT 05156.

Please include note stating your membership selection and who is being registered for the meeting.

Attendance at this meeting will be worth 2 pesticide recertification credits for private applicators and commercial applicators certified in categories 1a and 10.

UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work. UVM Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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. If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please contact Vern Grubinger by January 21 so we may assist you.

Sponsored by USDA Risk Management Agency, UVM Extension and the VT Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. Questions? Vern Grubinger: 802-257-7967 x303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu.

BUSINESS PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AG INFRASTRUCTURE

With funding from the Vermont Agricultural Innovation Center at the Agency of Agriculture, the Vermont Farm Viability Program is extending its business planning program to provide services to agricultural infrastructure businesses, including those that are involved in the processing, storage, marketing and/or distribution of agricultural products. To be eligible, the business must be primarily involved in the processing, storage, marketing, and/or distribution of local agricultural products and be located in Vermont. \$60,000 is available on a competitive basis. Deadline: March 30. A preference will be made towards businesses that utilize ingredients produced in or near Vermont. Applications for grants as well as business planning and technical assistance will be available online in January at www.vhcb.org/viability.html. Contact Liz Gleason for more information: egleason@vhcb.org or 802-828-3370.

NOFA JOURNEYFARMER PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICATIONS

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont has received funding from Vermont's Agriculture Innovation Center to pilot a Journeyfarmer Program in 2011. The program will connect aspiring organic farmers with some experience (farm apprentices, farm workers, or next-generation of an existing farm) to established farmers, in order to help aspiring farmers be successful. Six mentee participants will receive support including: 30 hours of farmer-to-farmer mentoring, technical assistance and business planning, free enrollment in either UVM Extension's Growing Places or Building a Sustainable Business courses, free admission to NOFA-VT's Winter Conference and Summer Workshop Series, and a monetary educational stipend. The selection process begins in January. This program is open to dairy, livestock, fruit, and vegetable farmers. If interested in participating or if you are an experienced farmer who wants to mentor new farmers, please contact: Wendy Sue Harper at 802-434-4122 or wendysue@nofavt.org.

VEGETABLE FARMERS SOUGHT FOR COST OF PRODUCTION STUDY

David Conner is a new professor in the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics at UVM. One of his projects, in cooperation with Michigan State University, is aimed at learning more about how vegetable farmers set prices and how they measure costs of production. He needs vegetable farmers that are willing to share their production costs, ideally from for 2010 season for the following crops: sweet corn, tomato, bell pepper, summer squash, carrot, cucumber, lettuce, and mixed salad greens. These costs can be in spreadsheet, Word or other form, as long as they are legible; they can be electronic or on paper. All data will be confidential; no names will be attached to any data in any public document. Participating farmers will be paid \$25 for each crop budget they share (limited to one budget per crop per year). The information will be analyzed and compared to existing enterprise budgets and the results will be published and used to teach undergraduate marketing classes. If interested, contact Jenny Buckley at MSU by Jan. 15 at: jbuckley@msu.edu or 517-355-5962. She will send you a self-addressed stamped envelope with an invoice form and a consent form to return.

UPCOMING EVENTS for more see: www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html

Jan. 9. Direct Marketing Conference, S. Royalton VT. <http://nofavt.org/annual-events> or 434-4122.

Feb 13-15. NOFA-VT Conference, UVM. <http://nofavt.org/annual-events> or 434-4122.

March 3 and 9. Practical Food Safety Planning (for Farms not Doing GAPS -- stay tuned).